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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.
FACULTY OF MEDICINE.—Session 1840-41.
The WINTER TERM will commence on Thursday, October 1. Classes in the order which the Lectures are delivered during the day.
MIDWIFERY AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—Professor Davis, M.D.
ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.—Professor Sharpey, M.D.
CHEMISTRY.—Professor Graham.
ANATOMY AND PRACTICAL ANATOMY.—Professor Quain.
COMPARATIVE ANATOMY AND ZOOLOGY.—Prof. Grant, M.D.
MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.—Prof. Thomson, M.D.
MEDICINE, PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF.—Professor Williams, M.D.
SURGERY, PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF.—Prof. Cooper and Mr. Liston, Professor of Clinical Surgery.

The following subjects will be taught during the SUMMER TERM.
BOTANY.—Prof. Lindley, Ph. D.—MIDWIFERY.—Prof. Davis, M.D.—PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY.—Prof. Carswell, M.D.—FORENSIC MEDICINE.—Professor Thomson, M.D.—PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY.—Professor Graham.

HOSPITAL PRACTICE DAILY.
MEDICAL CLINICAL LECTURES.—Dr. Williams, Dr. Thomson, and Dr. Carswell.
SURGICAL CLINICAL LECTURES.—Mr. Cooper and Mr. Liston.
Prospectuses and further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the College.

CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.
4th August, 1840.
The Lectures to the Classes of the Faculty of Arts commence on 14th October.—The Junior School opens on 24th September.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.
FACULTY OF ARTS AND LAWS.—Session 1840-41.
The Session will commence on Tuesday, the 14th inst., when Professor Cressy will deliver a Lecture on INTRODUCTION to his own Courses, at Two o'clock precisely.

CLASSES.
LATIN.—Professor Key, A.M.
GREEK.—Professor Malden, A.M.
HEBREW.—Professor Hurwitz.
ARABIC, PERSIAN, AND HINDUSTANI.—Prof. Falconer, A.M.
CHINESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.—Professor Rev. Samuel Kidd.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.—Prof. Latham, A.M.

FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.—Prof. Merlet.
ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.—Prof. Pepoli.
GERMAN LANGUAGE.—Teacher, Mr. Wittich.
MATHEMATICS.—Professor De Morgan.
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.—Professor Sylvester, F.R.S.
CHEMISTRY (Practical Course, commencing in May).—Professor Graham, F.R.S.
CHEMISTRY (Course for the Matriculation Examination in Arts at the University of London).—Professor Graham.
BOTANY, Junior Class do. (commencing in April).—Professor Lindley, Ph. D.

ZOOLOGY.—Professor Grant, M.D.
PHILOSOPHY OF MIND AND LOGIC.—Professor the Rev. J. Hopkins, Ph. D.
HISTORY, ANCIENT AND MODERN.—Professor Cressy, A.M.
ENGLISH LAW (commencing 4th Nov.).—Prof. Carey, A.M.
JURISPRUDENCE (commencing 2d Nov.).—Prof. Graves, A.M.
CIVIL ENGINEERING.—Professors De Morgan, Graham, and Sylvester.

DRAWING, in all its branches.—Teacher, Mr. G. B. Moore.
SCHOOLMASTER'S COURSES.—Professors Key, De Morgan, Sylvester, and Malden.

FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIPS.
A Flaherty Scholarship of 50l. per annum, tenable for four years, will be awarded in 1841 to the best proficient in Classics among the Students of the College under the age of twenty years. The Examination will take place in the second week in October. A similar Scholarship for proficiency in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy will be awarded in 1842, and in subsequent years, alternately, for proficiency in Classics, and in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Printed copies of the Regulations concerning these Scholarships may be had on application at the Office.

The Session of the Faculty of Medicine commences on 1st October. The Junior School re-opens 24th September.

14th August, 1840.
T. HEWITT KEY, Dean of the Faculty.
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE next (Tenth) Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, will be held in GLASGOW, during the Week commencing on Thursday the 17th of September.

JOHN TAYLOR, F.R.S., General Treasurer.
JAMES YATES, F.L.S., Secretary to the Council.
London, July 17, 1840.

TO SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS, ETC.

A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, long accustomed to Public and Private Lecturing on various subjects of Natural Philosophy, &c., is desirous to offer his services as PERMANENT or OCCASIONAL LECTURER. He has an extensive Apparatus, which he would be glad to dispose of on fair terms.—Advertiser has accommodation, in his own family, for an invalid or Boarder; and would be glad to undertake a tour in France or Italy for two or three months, as Domestic Physician and Interpreter.—Apply to M. D., Surgeon, No. 1, Castle-street, Dover.

THE DAGUERRETYPE, or mode of fixing, by a self-acting process, the transient images shown in the camera-obscura. This wonderful invention is protected in this country by Letters Patent, and is now being sold by the Majority's patronage. A large collection of specimens obtained by the Daguerreotype is exhibited for sale by Messrs. CLAUDET and HOUGHTON, 95, High Holborn, at their warehouses for French glass shades, sheet, crown, and painted window glass. The specimens consist of views of London, Paris, Rome, Naples, and other cities; portraits from life, figures from the living models, &c.; also microscopic objects immensely magnified.

ART-UNION OF LONDON.—GRATUITOUS EXHIBITION.—The Public will be admitted to View the PICTURES selected by the PRIZE-HOLDERS of the Year 1840, from Monday the 21st to Saturday the 29th instant inclusive, from 10 o'clock till 6, at the Gallery of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk-street, Pall Mall East.
T. E. JONES, Clerk to the Committee.

BIRMINGHAM AND EDGBASTON PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.

IN consequence of the Rev. C. H. MATORIN having been nominated to the office of Senior Proctor in the University of Cambridge, a SECOND MASTER, competent to teach the Classics and Mathematics, is WANTED in this School, to enter upon his duties on the 5th of October next. The Salary is 250l. per annum, with permission to take Pupils of the School as Boarders.

Every information may be obtained of the Honorary Secretary, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham, to whom the Testimonials of Candidates must be transmitted (free of expense) on or before the 5th of September.
August 8, 1840. J. C. BARLOW, Honorary Secretary.

FOSSILS, MINERALS, ETC.

MR. AUGUST KRANTZ, of Berlin, begs respectfully to notify, that during the approaching Meeting of the British Association, he intends to be in Glasgow, whither he will bring with him from the Continent an extensive and choice Collection of FOSSILS and MINERALS; and he requests that such persons as take an interest in these studies will favour him with a call.
Berlin, August 1, 1840.

PATENTEES AND OTHERS are respectfully informed that Advertisements for any of the London or Provincial Papers, through the Office of Mr. S. Deacon, 3, Walbrook, will meet promptly all the demands of the Inventors, Advocates, Repository of Arts, Mechanics' Magazine, and the Provincial Papers from every county, may be seen. An Index kept to Advertisements for Heirs, &c.

Sales by Auction.

SOUTHGATE'S ROOMS.
By Messrs. SOUTHGATE & SON, at their Rooms, 72, Fleet-street, THIS DAY (Saturday), and three following days, (Sunday excepted),

A MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION OF BOOKS, chiefly in Fine Condition; including a Valuable THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY, (removed from the Country), and the LIBRARY of the late T. NICHOLAS, Esq. (by order of the Executors); among which are, 15 vols.—Clementis Alexandrini Opera 4 vols.—Bernardi Opera Omnia, 2 vols.—Surenbrunni Opera, 6 vols.—Grabe Septuaginta Interpretum, 3 vols.—Leontis Opera Omnia, 3 vols.—Frederici Hillarii Opera—Justinii Opera—Nesi's History of the Old and New Testaments, 4 vols.—Biblia Polyglotta Bæstieriana—Bayle's Dictionary, 4 vols.—Biblia and Finkel's England, 4 vols.—Dart's Antiquities of Westminster Abbey, 3 vols.—Cooper's Groups of Cattle.—IN QUARTO: Plato's Works by Sydenham and Taylor, 3 vols.—Todd's Johnson's Dictionary, 3 vols.—Addison's Works, 4 vols.—Calder's Works, 3 vols.—Jones's History of Brecknockshire, 2 vols.—Collinson's History of Somersetshire, 3 vols.—Earlston and Turner's Portraits, fine proofs of Lyly and Manly's Works, 15 vols.—Todd's Bible, 6 vols.—Boothroyd's Hebrew Bible, Venetia Commentarius in Psalmos, 6 vols.—AND IN OCTAVO: Valpy's Delphin Classics, 141 vols.—Calder's Johnson and Stevens's Shakespeare, 15 vols.—Spenser's Works, by Todd, 8 vols.—L. P.—Dillon's Northern Tour, 2 vols.—Euripidis Opera Omnia, 9 vols.—Calder's Bishop Hall's Works, 12 vols.—Bingham's Oriental Ecclesiastica, 10 vols.—Horne's Inductive Theology, 4 vols.—Spectator, 7 vols.—Guardian, 12 vols.—Byron's Works, 10 vols.—Drama, 8 vols.—Lectures on Essayists, 4 vols.—Calder's Elegant Extracts, 18 vols.—Filloston's Works, 12 vols.—Henry's Great Britain, 12 vols.—Gallery of Portraits, 7 vols.—Granger's Biographical History and Noble's Continuation, 9 vols.—Dryden's Prose and Poetical Works, 8 vols.—Calder's Edwards's Works, 8 vols.—The Works of Robertson, Rolin, Gibson, Hume and Smollett, Scott, Swift, Smollett, Pope, &c. &c.

May be viewed, and Catalogues had.

On FRIDAY, August 23, and 2 following days, (Sunday excepted),

A MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION OF BOOKS, in various Bindings, being the STOCK of Mr. RICHARD JAMES KENNETT, of York-street, Covent-garden, (by order of the Trustees), comprising Works on History, Antiquities, Voyages, Travels, Biography, Botany, the Arts and Sciences, &c.; also a large Selection of Valuable American Works.

* Liberal accommodations offered on property intended for immediate Sale.

LONDON AND BRIGHTON RAILWAY COMPANY, incorporated by Act of Parliament, July 15, 1825.

—NOTICE is hereby given, that the Directors of the London and Brighton Railway Company have this day made a CALL of 5d. per share in this undertaking, and the same is directed to be paid on or before the 16th day of September next, to either of the undermentioned Bankers:

London.—Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smith; Messrs. Ladbroke, Kingdome, & Co.

Liverpool and Manchester.—The Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, on account of Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smith.

Brighton, Hoveham, Lewes, and Tunbridge.—The London and County Joint-stock Bank, Bank.

Lewes.—Messrs. Molinoux & Co.

Glasgow.—The Glasgow Union Bank.

Dublin.—The Provincial Bank of Ireland.

Proprietors of Shares are therefore requested to pay the same accordingly.

JOHN HARMAN, Chairman.

London and Brighton Railway Office,

10, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, Ag., 13, 1840.

LONDON AND BRIGHTON RAILWAY COMPANY.—TENDERS FOR LOANS.—The Directors of this Company are prepared, under the powers of their Act, to RECEIVE TENDERS for the LOAN of MONEY, on security of their undertaking, and of the rates and tolls arising therefrom, in sums of not less than 500l., and for the terms of three, five, or seven years, on interest at the rate of 5l. per cent. per annum, to be paid half-yearly, at Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smith's. The tenders are to express the sums and terms of years for which the same are proposed to be lent, and to be addressed to the Secretary, at the Company's Offices, 10, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.—By order of the Board of Directors.
London, March 12, 1840. THOS. WOOD, Sec.

On the 1st of October will be published, in 3 vols. with Illustrations,

LADY BULWER'S NEW NOVEL, 'THE BUDGET OF THE BUBBLE FAMILY.'

* The Publisher deems it necessary to give thus early notice of the day of publication, that all orders previously given at the Libraries and Booksellers throughout the United Kingdom may be punctually supplied on that day.
Edward Bull, Publisher and Librarian, 10, Holles-street, Cavendish-square.

This day is published, 3rd edition, 8vo. 12. 6d.

A REPORT ON DEAFNESS when resulting from Diseases of the EUSTACHIAN PASSAGES; with the modern Methods of Cure: being a Paper read to the Liverpool Medical Association on the 10th December, 1839. By HUGH NEILL, Surgeon to the Institution for curing Diseases of the Ear; and Surgeon to the Ophthalmic Infirmary.
London: Longman, Orme, & Co.

STRADLING CORRESPONDENCE.

This day is published, in post 8vo. price 10s. 6d. cloth, **STRADLING CORRESPONDENCE: a Series of Letters** written in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth; with Notes of the Family of Stradling, of 74, Strand, &c. G. Morgan. Edited by the Rev. J. M. TRAHERN, M.A., F.R.S. London: Longman, Orme, & Co. Cardiff: W. Bird.

In a few days,

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW, (late LONDON AND WESTMINSTER), No. 67.

Contents:
1. China (with Illustrations). 5. Hanke's History of the Popes.
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H. Hooper, 13, Pall Mall East.

Will shortly appear,

THE DUBLIN REVIEW, No. XVII.

Containing,

ART. 1. Staudenmaier's Spirit of Christianity.
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London: Charles Dolman, 61, New Bond-street. Dublin: J. Cumming. Liverpool: Booker & Co. 37, Ranelagh-street.

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the Annual General Meeting of Proprietors, &c., may be obtained at the Office of the Company, 26, Cornhill, London; or at any of the Branch Offices throughout the country.

F. PERGISON CAMROUX, Secretary.

SPINCKES' Devotions, edited by Rev. F. E. PAGET.
John Henry Parker. Oxford.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1840.

REVIEWS

Travels in Abyssinia.—[*Reise in Abyssinien*]. By Dr. Edw. Rüppell. Vol. II. Frankfurt on the Mayne. 1840.

THE first volume of Dr. Rüppell's narrative (see *Athen.* No. 628) terminated with his arrival in Entcheteab, the chief town, or, we should rather say, the largest hamlet in the mountainous province of Simen. This was the country in which the Abyssinians, who adhered to Judaism, united under a ruler supposed to be descended from King David, maintained themselves against the continual warfare of their Christian neighbours till the middle of the last century. Simen is the highest land in Africa of which we have any information; nor is there the least ground for supposing that it is surpassed in elevation by any other points on that continent, not excepting even the mountains of Kaffa, south-west of Abyssinia. The province of Simen is about fifty miles in length from north to south, and about forty broad, and may be briefly described as an irregular mass of volcanic rocks; the profound valleys formed by the chasms and fissures in the older streams of lava, exhibiting numerous cones thrown up by later eruptions, and more recent lavas ejected through the old. The highest crags of this rude region cannot fall far short of the absolute elevation of 15,000 feet; at all events, they nearly reach the line of perpetual congelation, and the snow lies all the year round in the clefts and ravines near the summits. The waters of this region are nearly all collected in the river Bellegas, which, bounding Simen on the west and south, descends into the Tacazze. The Bellegas was unknown to geographers previous to our author's journey, and Lake Dembea was erroneously supposed to receive the copious streams flowing from the snowy heights of Simen.

The undulating plain on which Entcheteab stands, 10,000 feet above the sea, is bare of trees, which grow luxuriantly in the valley of the Bellegas, 4,000 feet lower down. A singular plant, named Gibarra, mimics the figure of the palm in the neighbourhood of perpetual snow. The general character of the scenery is thus described by our author:—

The immediate vicinity of my dwelling was quite free from bushes, owing to the elevation of the place, but luxuriant barley and a rich green turf alternately covered the ground, interspersed with a variety of mushrooms, which the humid air and the nature of the disintegrating soil brought forth in great abundance. The heights towards the north-east, which concealed from view the towering crest of Buahat, were covered from time to time with a thin layer of snow, which disappeared after a few hours' sunshine. To the south were seen, at a great distance, majestic mountain ranges, belonging to the province Belessa, while on the west the green plain sloped rapidly down to the Shoada, or valley of the Bellegas, on the opposite side of which were the plains of Woggera. The lower parts of the valley were covered with thickets; but the upper parts exhibited only the glens, through which a multitude of little torrents hurried foaming into the Bellegas. The lower one descended into the valley by the winding paths traced among the broken and precipitous masses of lava, the more vigorous and varied grew the arborescent vegetation. Sometimes the thick foliage was broken through by a projecting mass of naked rock, the favourite abode of numerous families of apes; and a diversity of flowers, in full bloom, spread a strong perfume around. On the banks of the river itself waved beauteous groups of tall trees, under the thick shade of which lay hid the church of Anarakai. Some wretched huts, inhabited by the priests belonging to the church, stood close by. Several carefully cultivated fields, including crops of flax grown for the sake of the oil, increased the varied charms of the landscape, which, owing to the diversified green of

the groups of trees, the bright variegated plumage of the birds, the mildness of the air contrasted with the climate of Entcheteab, the murmuring of cascades, and the graceful figures of the young people in the place, awakened feelings of gaiety and delight.

It is needless to dwell on the formal though meagre hospitality of Entcheteab; or on the dignified air of its humble governor, who expected that all the chief people of the place, with our author among the number, should assemble round his hut every morning; or on the pilfering propensities of the people, who are as corrupt in Simen as in other parts of Abyssinia. As the social manners of a nation are best studied in its capital city, we shall hasten to follow our author to Gondar, whither he proceeded after a three months' residence in Simen, notwithstanding the difficulties opposed to his movements by the alarms of intestine war. On his way he passed through Dobark, a village inhabited solely by Mohammedans, and remarkable for its weekly market, at which are often assembled 10,000 people (a vast concourse in Abyssinia) from the surrounding country. The fear of robbers induced him to make a forced march by night, and, as day dawned, he saw before him the broad expanse of Lake Dembea, or Tsana, with the level alluvial tracts round its margin, and beyond it to the south a faint streak in the horizon marked the land of Gojjam, in which are those fountains of the Nile so celebrated in Bruce's narrative.

Gondar, the capital of Abyssinia, stands on a volcanic ridge, laved on both sides by lively streams, which uniting about two miles below the town, hasten southwards to the lake. The trees surrounding the scattered habitations, and the more majestic groups which encircle the churches, give the place, at a little distance, a dignified and attractive appearance. Common fame assigns to Gondar forty-four churches, a number swelled in our author's narrative, with an air of incredulity, to fifty. The semblance of grandeur is still further aided by the remains of the royal castle, a pile of building of which we confess we had formed a very inadequate idea, until our author's description and accompanying plate overcame our mistrust. But the stateliness of the Abyssinian capital vanishes on a near approach. Within, the town exhibits little but ruin and dilapidation; the houses are crumbling to decay, and the gardens round them are running wild. Its population, estimated by Bruce at 10,000 families, and by later writers at 40,000 souls, does not at present exceed, according to our author's calculations, 1,000 families.

Among the visits paid by our author on his first arrival in Gondar, the most interesting was certainly that intended as a homage to the shadow of the imperial dignity. It may be well, perhaps, to remind our readers that towards the end of the last century the governors of the provinces of Abyssinia, uniting in their disobedience, stripped the emperor of all the powers of sovereignty, and left him nothing but the bare title. The royal line descended from Menilek, the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, is not yet extinct, but it is trodden under foot by its former vassals, and irrecoverably degraded. The weakness of the reigning family conspired with other causes to bring about this revolution, which has plunged Abyssinia into inextinguishable civil war; put an end to industry and social order; and demoralized as well as depopulated a country, capable, under a peaceful and steady rule, of making rapid advances in civilization. The nominal emperor, at the time of our author's visit to Gondar, was Saglu Denghel, who dwelt, not in the castle or palace, which, though going to ruin, still preserves some fine apartments, but in a round

house, built in the ordinary Abyssinian fashion within the wall that encompasses the castle in a circuit of nearly a mile. He sat in an alcove screened by a tattered curtain, in an ill-lighted and unfurnished, but prettily constructed apartment; wrapped in an ample calico robe, which left only his eyes and grey locks visible, while two servants, or chamberlains, one at each side, fanning away the flies, constituted the feeble types of an imperial retinue. He expressed to our author his regret that he had not the power to befriend strangers, and with the weakness, natural to humanity, ever ready to find reality in the name of bygone greatness, he spoke as if he represented indefeasible rights, though, in fact, he was but the creature of the usurped authority at which he inveighed. A feast which he made for our author surprised the latter by its extreme thriftiness; but neither comparative poverty nor complete powerlessness could wholly rob the imperial title of its awe-inspiring influence, and the respectable Abyssinians who accompanied Dr. Rüppell to the palace bared their shoulders and bowed their heads to the dust in the royal presence. Indeed that title, if borne by one who had the skill to excite national feelings, would carry with it a degree of popularity which might turn the scale in the contest for power. But Saglu Denghel, as weak and infatuated as his worthily deposed predecessors, caring little for popularity or for nationality, unluckily bethought him of a royal expedient to draw a tribute, not from his subjects generally, but what was much less possible or politic, from the church. He argued, that, as he was the head of the church, he had a right to retract, in the fallen state of his affairs, those donations which his predecessors had, in times of opulence, made to the different religious bodies. He seriously propounded this claim to the heads of the clergy assembled in Gondar, and they forthwith marched in procession to Ras Ali, the Governor of Dembea, complained that Saglu Denghel had conceived heretical innovations dangerous to Church and State, and prayed that the title of Emperor might be taken from him. Ras Ali granted their request, and sent an officer to Gondar to turn Saglu Denghel out of the castle. Thus oddly terminated the five months' reign of the last Negus Negashi, or King of Kings (for Ras Ali never took the trouble to name another in succession), the last of a line of princes boasting as ancient, and, we believe, as well authenticated a pedigree, as the Guelfs or Bourbons.

In the eyes of zealous naturalists, like Dr. Rüppell, wild beasts have unspeakable charms: their loveliness increases with their size; they are interesting in proportion as they are dangerous and untameable; and the coy savages are dodged by the enamoured zoologist with a perseverance from which they have no chance of escape, but by jumping out of their skins. At the northern base of Simen, the Kolla, or low, hot country, is covered with dense forests, which hinder the circulation of air, and confine the exhalations of a region in which the work of decomposition, both animal and vegetable, goes on rapidly. Hence it is so pestilential, as to be not only uninhabitable, but that even a single day's travelling through it will sometimes bring on fever. Deserted by man, it is the favourite retreat of wild animals of all kinds. Innumerable families of apes inhabit the trees, and the leopard clammers after them. The elephant and the rhinoceros delight in making their way through the thickets, crushing all before them; the lion prowls after the antelopes which frequent the glades.

This region our author, despite the remonstrances of his Abyssinian friends, resolved to

visit. A few hours' journey north-westward from Gondar brought him to the edge of the volcanic mountains, supporting, toward the south, the elevated plain, in the centre of which spreads the Lake of Dembea, and sinking rapidly on the north into an abyss of forest. His guide, an experienced hunter in the Kolla, would not stir beyond the crest of the ridge till he had gone through certain propitiatory rites. The firearms were all placed on the ground, pointing towards the region of the elephants, and a red sheep, which was brought for the purpose, after being led three times round the arms, was sacrificed on the spot, the hunter and his comrades regaling on the raw and warm flesh. The sun had sunk to the horizon ere the spells were all muttered, or the mutton devoured; and our author, descending the steep mountain, had to encounter the sundry alarms and mishaps incidental to nocturnal journeys in such a country: as the falling of the asses with the baggage over precipices, the cries of robbers, and howling of beasts of prey. Though the Kolla, strictly speaking, is uninhabited, yet there are hills in it, which, rising above the level of the noxious atmosphere, are crowned with villages, the inhabitants of which find, in the extraordinary fertility of their soil, and their exemption from the wars which devastate the more elevated country, a sufficient compensation for their gloomy scenery, and their dangerous vicinity to a region of death. In these villages our author sojourned some weeks, and found their humble inhabitants kind and hospitable, less selfish and inconstant than the Abyssinians of the highlands. His hunter proved false, but the wild beasts themselves obligingly indulged all his fantasies, so that, from his engagements with them, he carried off a reasonable number of "spolia opima." Great was his joy when he first came on the print of an elephant's foot measuring three feet in diameter; but how shall we describe his delight when he saw a whole drove of the huge animals themselves marching through a thicket beneath them—not showing their heads or trunks, but their backs only rising above the tall canes, like porpoises rolling over the waves. The villagers in such situations, in order to protect their fields from the ravages of wild animals, build huts in trees, in which watchmen are stationed day and night. Below these huts lie bundles of straw and reeds, which the watchman kindles and flings at the invaders to scare them away.

Returning in triumph from the low country, or Kolla, our author next made an excursion southwards, to the Cataract of the Nile, after it issues from the lake. His road led along the eastern side of the lake, on the shores of which he found a thriving town, not mentioned by any preceding writer. Kirtatza, the place alluded to, has risen into importance under the protection of the clergy, to whom it may be said to belong, and who have had influence enough to avert from it the general tide of war and pillage. The town, containing about 1,500 inhabitants, stands on a gentle eminence on the borders of the lake. Its churches, surrounded with umbrageous groups of trees, attract the eye as it wanders over the diversified and agreeable scene. The houses of Kirtatza, all enclosed in thorn fences, show a neatness and comfort but little known in other parts of Abyssinia. Industry, protected by the sanctity of the place, has here fixed her abode. Cotton is manufactured to a considerable extent in Kirtatza, and our author was somewhat surprised at the art shown by the smiths in their swordblades, knives, and razors; nor must we omit to mention their iron ploughshares. Shields, book-covers, and other works in leather are also elegantly finished. In Gondar, Dr. Rüppell had begun to make a collection of the Abyssinian

chronicles, and, by extract or abridgment, to complete the authentic history of that kingdom to the present time. The churches of Kirtatza contained some literary treasures which materially aided him in achieving what he had undertaken with such enlightened predilection. Among the curiosities contained in their libraries he found some odd volumes of Buffon's Natural History. But we must hasten onward two days' journey to the bridge of Deldei, near the cataracts of the Abay, or Nile of Bruce, allowing our author to describe the scene in his own language:—

The whole night long there blew a southern breeze, which bore with it the murmuring of the waterfalls near the bridge of Deldei. The road to the bridge was in a southerly direction, almost always down hill, so that the latter place may be perhaps 2,000 feet lower than Dembea. Two leagues beyond that place we crossed the little river Alata, which, flowing from the north-north-east, joins the Abay about three miles above the bridge. The country grew continually more wild and rocky until we at last came to the bridge, where the sight is very peculiar and calculated to surprise. The Nile, here flowing towards the north-east, rushes down in a series of foaming cascades into a chasm about sixty feet deep, and in some places hardly twelve feet wide at top. In the rainy season not only is this gully filled to the brim, but the river overflows both banks also, which are strewn with rolled blocks of lava of immense size. The bridge is of eight arches, which are of different dimensions,—that which is at the northern end and crosses the chasm being far the widest of them all. The bridge is about ninety paces long and fifteen feet wide. It does not extend in a straight line, but the three northernmost arches bend a little to the west. The vaulting of the arches is built of cut sandstone, the rest of rude lavas. In the middle of the bridge stands a cross wall with a door, and at its northern end are the mouldering remains of a kind of tower or guardhouse.

About a hundred yards above the bridge, the chasm through which the river rushes has a width of only nine or ten feet, and men can jump across it. In all these particulars, our author's description coincides exactly with that of the Jesuit Godinho—(see *Athen.* No. 563). Bruce and Jerome Lobo saw the cataracts at their commencement, two or three miles higher up; and, considering the variance between them, and the popularity of both, we much regret that our author did not spend an hour or two in exploring the river in the direction of Alata. His return to Gondar offers no incident worthy of remark. On the level tracts near the lake, he observed vestiges of canals, the evidence of a cultivation now forgotten in Abyssinia. He was not a little astonished at the size of the grapes brought to the market of Bada, and at their cheapness, about ten pounds weight of them being given for a piece of salt, or two hundred and a half for a dollar. They were good enough to justify the expectation of their becoming excellent with a little culture. The people dwelling on the shores of the lake kill the hippopotamus, for the sake of its flesh and skin, which is made into whips; but they have no idea of the value of its teeth in commerce. The ivory of the hippopotamus is now generally preferred by dentists.

On his return from Gondar to the sea coast, our author took the road leading by the formidable pass of Sankaber, on the northern side of Simen. The mountain crest along which the road conducts is hardly forty feet in width. On the north, is a frightful abyss, three thousand feet deep, with the conical remains of extinct volcanoes, forming a kind of dotted line north-westward through it. On the south, in a valley much less profound, flowed a tributary of the Bellegas. On the narrowest part of the ridge, a rude kind of entrenchment had been con-

structed, to which properly belongs the name Sankaber. Immediately below this, the river Serima bursts forth, and hurries down the steep in foaming cascades. From Sankaber may be seen a great part of the low provinces of Walkeit and Shiré—the lofty and isolated volcanic peak of Alequ, which is beyond or north of the Tacazze, forming a conspicuous object in the landscape. Another day's journey over grassy plains, ten thousand feet in absolute elevation, brought our author to a precipice four thousand feet deep, with all the mountainous scenery of Tigré spread beneath it, and the numerous rivers below looking like silver threads. Above, on the right, was the snowy mass of Buahat. Turning southwards down an alpine valley, without a tree or bush, where all was vast, wild, and dreary, our traveller came to the camp of Ubi, the ruler of Simen, and now the paramount chief of Abyssinia.

Ubi's encampment contained about 2,000 soldiers, with 3,000 women and camp followers of various kinds. Huts of straw and reeds sheltered the commonalty. Ubi's tent was seven feet square; but a shed outside of it screened a low table, at which a numerous company were feasting when our author arrived. He was, of course, invited by the chief to join the party; and a young lady of rank who sat beside him took upon her the polite office of cramming his mouth with food. His testimony confirms that of Bruce respecting the licentious and shameless conversation of the Abyssinians at their feasts. The next day, Ubi broke up his camp, and moved towards Sowana, one of his periodical residences, on the northern slope of Buahat. Strange and lively beyond description looked the long train of those wild people, as they wound up the narrow alpine path to the heights. Ubi and his chief officers were easily distinguished by their handsome mules and their attire. The graceful figures of the women, carrying baskets on their heads, were mingled throughout the whole array with those of the warriors, clad in sheep-skin jackets, and bearing pikes. The ladies of rank rode on mules in groups, surrounded by their attendants on foot, mostly young girls. The priests shone conspicuous in their bright yellow raiment, while four and twenty musicians, mounted on white mules, with kettle-drums before them, and with red caps and jackets, animated the march as much by their gay appearance as by their music. In this guise the army crossed the elevated ridge, and descended to Sowana. On the following morning, our author was admitted to a private conference with the chief:—

Ubi, he observes, is (1833) a man of about two-and-thirty, of moderate height, and slender figure. The form of his head, and his whole carriage, have an expression of nobility, and his fine lively eyes show spirit and various talent. His complexion is a light brown; his voice soft. His head was uncovered, and his handsomely curled hair was cut short. His whole clothing consisted in a white cotton robe, with a broad coloured border of silk, and, after the custom of the country, he wore at his right side a dagger or ataghan. His language is free from affectation; his replies quick, and to the purpose. He has the reputation of being valiant, magnanimous, liberal, and just.

The chieftain of whom our author draws this favourable portrait, is said to be of Galla descent, a circumstance which might favour his ambition if he were to aim at reuniting under his sway all the provinces which once owed submission to the Emperor. Though fully conscious of his own power and importance, he could not help smiling at the simplicity of the European traveller who asked him to warrant the security of the road to Axum. He frankly gave, however, his protection as far as it was available, and our author reached without accident the ancient capital

of the Greek kingdom of Axum. As this part of Abyssinia has been already fully described by Bruce and Salt, we shall abstain at present from entering into any particulars respecting it. Nevertheless, we cannot refrain from remarking, that our author makes the rivers which water Axum and Adowa, to flow southwards to the Tacazze, whereas all preceding authorities have represented them as running northwards into the Mareb. Dr. Rüppell has, in some other instances, made the rivers wheel about and retrace their courses, and we adopted his emendations without a murmur, knowing him to be an intelligent and conscientious observer; but, in the present instance, we have before us so circumstantial an account of the rivers at Axum and Adowa, written by the Jesuit fathers, and corroborated by Poncet, Bruce, Salt, Gobat, &c., that we find it difficult to yield to his naked asseveration, unsupported by any details or explanations respecting the configuration of the country.

Our readers are probably aware that Mr. Salt copied a Greek inscription of great historical value found in Axum, and supposed to date from the fourth century. Our author has now added to it two other inscriptions, in ancient Æthiopic characters, likewise commemorating historical achievements, and one of which he supposes to be of the same age as that copied by Mr. Salt. A discussion on such a theme would lead us beyond our just limits, and we shall content ourselves here with observing that Dr. Rüppell errs in believing that the Saba of the inscription was the town of Asab, on the Danakly coast. The Saba of the Abyssinians was neither on their sea coast nor in Arabia, but on the left bank of the Tacazze, in Meroe, and opposite to Taka.

We must not close these valuable volumes without mentioning that the numerous Ethiopic MSS. procured by Dr. Rüppell during his stay in Abyssinia, and his zoological collections, the fruit of sixteen years strenuous exertions, have been generously given by him, the former to the public library, the latter to the museum of Natural History, of his native city, Frankfurt on the Mayne.

Report from the Select Committee on Trafalgar Square, together with the Minutes of Evidence. Printed by Order of the House of Commons.

WE mentioned some time since (*ante*, p. 574) that several of our distinguished architects and sculptors had been summoned before a Committee of the House of Commons (appointed to inquire into the Plan for laying out the vacant space in Trafalgar Square), to give their opinions as to the effect which the Nelson Column would have in that situation and on the surrounding buildings. The Report is now published; but before we proceed to the conclusions, we shall give a brief summary of the opinions of the witnesses. These are in some points amusingly contradictory: for example, Mr. Barry and Mr. Cockerell come to the same result from directly opposite premises,—Mr. Barry being of opinion that “the area is too small and confined for a column of the height and magnitude proposed,” and Mr. Cockerell, that “the site is too large for the full effect of the column.” But we had better allow the parties to give not merely their opinions but their reasons. The following questions were asked, and time allowed to prepare the answers:—

1. What effect, in your opinion, will a column, of which the pedestal including the steps is 43 feet high, and the height altogether 170, have upon the National Gallery?

2. What effect, in your opinion, will the said column have as an ornamental object, in combination with the surrounding buildings?

3. What effect will the column have on the National Gallery as you approach it from Whitehall?

4. How far do you consider that position a favourable position for the column itself?

Mr. Charles Barry.—“The area is too small and confined for a column of the height and magnitude proposed: the effect of it would be to reduce the apparent size of the square, and render the surrounding buildings insignificant. The National Gallery, being small in its parts, and low in elevation, will suffer materially in this respect, more especially when viewed from Whitehall and Charing-cross; where the pedestal steps and stylobate, forming the base of the proposed column, will conceal a considerable portion of the portico, which is the most effective part of the building. The irregularity in the form of the area, the variation in the levels of the surrounding streets, and the direction of the several lines of approach, are not calculated to form a favourable view of the column, except from Charing-cross and Whitehall, where, as I have before stated, it will have an injurious effect upon the National Gallery, whilst the Gallery will form an unfavourable background for the column. From all other points of view, the unsymmetrical position of the column, in respect of the surrounding objects, will be striking and unsatisfactory. The views of the proposed column from the ends of Duncannon-street and Pall Mall East, as well as from the road in front of the Gallery, would be unfavourable, in consequence of the points of sight being from 11 to 14 feet above the base of the stylobate on which the column rests. For these reasons I am of opinion that the column will be improperly placed in Trafalgar-square.”

Mr. C. R. Cockerell.—“A pedestal 43 feet high, the whole being 170 feet high, will have no ill effect on the National Gallery and the surrounding buildings, on the score of its scale and dimensions, viewed from the north, west, and east sides of the square, because I believe that the juxtaposition of colossal and ordinary proportions has been practised in all times and in all styles of architecture with success, especially by the ancients, who observed this principle more strictly than the moderns: witness the column of Trajan, in an area 82 feet by 62 feet; that of Antonine, in a square not much larger; the ivory and gold colossal statues of Jupiter and of Minerva, which occupied the entire nave of their temples. Again, the Tower of St. Mark, at Venice, 42 feet wide at the base, and 316 feet high, in a square 562 by 232; the Column of London, and that of the Duke of York; none of which can be said to deteriorate from the architecture in connexion with which they are seen. The placing such colossal subjects in extensive areas, as in the front of St. Peter's at Rome, Place Louis XV., at Paris, at St. Petersburg, and other places, is wholly a modern practice, and a departure from the principle of effect on which they were originally founded by the ancients. My conclusion therefore is, not that the proposed column is too large for the site, but that the site is too large for the full effect of the proposed column. * * I believe it will be found the constant practice of the best architects to consider the central object in front of a great building, as a scale for the appreciation of its magnitude, and to make it always subordinate to the uninterrupted view of its principal feature. Thus the statue of Queen Anne, before St. Paul's, presents an admirable centre and scale to the whole front, without in any degree obstructing its view. The statue of King Charles plays the same part, with reference to the National Gallery, from Whitehall-place, and the contrast is greatly to its advantage in approaching from Parliament-street. The proposed column would supersede that well-proportioned centre, and present a succession of centres, contrary to the usual architectural practice, which places successive objects at the sides, but never in the centre of an avenue, especially when such centres would obstruct the view of a fine object in the background. I am constrained, for the above reasons, to offer my humble opinion, that the proposed position for the column is not favourable to it with reference to the whole square, nor to the National Gallery as seen from Whitehall.”

Mr. Edward Blore.—“As regards the National Gallery, the combination as you approach it from Whitehall will be one of the least favourable, inasmuch as the column in this point of view will cut

the portico and dome of the National Gallery almost through the centre; still, however, it must be borne in mind, that the National Gallery, from the superior height and the prominent position of the column, will in this point of view (pictorially considered) have only the effect of a background, an effect which will be more obvious from the great distance interposed between the two objects, and the aerial tint which the more remote one will acquire by this distance; so that the disadvantage of combination will be very much mitigated by the relative distance of the objects, and the atmospheric modification resulting therefrom. In my opinion, the position is peculiarly favourable for a lofty object, such as a column or obelisk, provided it be in good proportion, and designed with good taste; and that taking into consideration all the circumstances of the ground and the surrounding buildings, that no substitute could be found for such a form to produce an equally good effect.”

Mr. Decimus Burton.—“The column will apparently diminish the size of the Gallery; render the surrounding buildings less important; its pedestal will obscure a portion of the National Gallery; but for the column itself, it is a very favourable position.”

Sir Francis Chantrey.—“I cannot believe that a column, or other ornamental object, placed where this is intended to be, can injure the present appearance of the National Gallery, except so far as it may interrupt the view, and perhaps tend to lower its apparent altitude. As an ornamental object, the beauty and just proportions of a Corinthian column, as forming part of a building, are matters settled about 2,000 years ago; what its effect may be standing alone must depend much on the base, and the object which crowns the summit. An injudicious association of modern things with ancient may put the column out of the pale of classic beauty. Of the statue which is to be made I can give no opinion, but if it be only to measure 17 feet, its bird-like size will not be much in the way, and, if formed of Portland stone, will not be long in the way. I expect that when the column and the National Gallery are seen together in their whole extent and at the same moment, which will be the case when viewed between Whitehall and Charing Cross, that the Gallery, as I have said before, may suffer somewhat in its apparent height; but I do not regard this as of much importance, when I consider that Mr. Barry's plan of sinking the base line ten or twelve feet, must improve the elevation of the National Gallery considerably. I consider this position to be the most favourable that can be found or imagined for any national work of art; its aspect is nearly south, and sufficiently open on all sides to give the object placed on that identical spot all the advantage from light and shade that can be desired; to this may be added the advantage of a happy combination of unobtrusive buildings around; but to conceive a national monument worthy of this magnificent site is no easy task.”

Mr. T. L. Donaldson.—“It will render the inadequacy of the National Gallery for the important position which it occupies still more apparent: the want of altitude in the National Gallery, the littleness of all the features, the number of parts into which the elevation is divided, are so many circumstances which give an insignificance to the building. If any other ornamental erections are to be placed in Trafalgar Square, and restricted to being subordinate in scale to the National Gallery, the area will consist of a vast space occupied by insignificant objects. The only way to restore to it that importance which it deserves, and which it has lost through the National Gallery, is to place within it a lofty towering edifice, to which all the buildings around will be subordinate, and form the background. I conceive, therefore, the size of the proposed column to be no objection. The situation is one of the finest in the world. The best possible position for a lofty monument is when the spectator comes upon it unexpectedly, and when it can only be seen from a short distance: Trafalgar Square unites in an eminent degree both these requisites.”

Mr. Joseph Gwilt.—“A column, whose pedestal is to rise to the height of forty-three feet, of proportionable width, will, in every view from the south, have the effect of destroying whatever unity of design the National Gallery possesses, by cutting it into two parts, equal or unequal, as the place of the

spectator may be varied. This, of course, can only take place in the view from the south; and the portico, the best part of the building in question, will thus be found to suffer much more than the subordinate parts. I do not think the proposed column will combine so as to group well with any of the surrounding buildings. Whatever importance the National Gallery possesses will be destroyed by placing the column on the spot selected. I do not think the position favourable for any columnar monument; because when such a form is selected, it is, in my opinion, desirable that the whole, or at least the greatest part of the outline, if it be good, should be distinguishable or marked against a background, whose colour and quality are different from the material whereof it (the column) is composed."

Mr. P. Hardwick.—"I am of opinion that a column of which the pedestal including the steps is 43 feet high, and the height altogether 170 feet, placed, as it is proposed to be, in front of the National Gallery, and in a line with the centre of the portico, must in certain points of view, on approaching it from the south, conceal so much of it, that its effect cannot be favourable on that building. Architectural objects well designed, and of good proportion, almost invariably combine well with surrounding buildings, and I think it probable that such will be the effect of the proposed column. There are so many circumstances in favour of the position selected, that I am of opinion it is altogether an eligible site for the column."

Mr. Sidney Smirke.—"It will have the same effect upon all the adjacent buildings; but, when viewed as a whole, in combination with the surrounding architecture, including the intended terrace, &c., I should expect that a very fine architectural scene will be produced, however much each building composing the group may suffer in individual importance. I think that the situation in question is a most favourable one for the monument; if no site for it be adopted but one where it would not affect the apparent magnitude of adjacent buildings, it must be removed to the middle of Hyde Park or Regent's Park, where it would be entirely thrown away. I would not, out of regard for the surrounding buildings, be afraid of the height of this monument; to give it all the effect of which it is capable should be, I think, the paramount object; and with that view, instead of dropping it down to a ground line sunk below the level of the terrace, I would lift it up on a terrace levelled out from the portico of the Gallery; and, may I venture to add, I would have selected a design for this monument that could be prudently built without the serious curtailment of its dimensions which has been found necessary."

Sir R. Westmacott.—"I am of opinion that a column, of which the pedestal including the steps is 43 feet high, and 17 feet wide, and the height altogether 170 feet, will be injurious to the effect of the National Gallery. As an ornamental object, in combination with the surrounding buildings, I cannot hesitate in saying, that I think the effect of the column itself and those buildings, from the absence of harmony of proportion with each other, will in itself be bad; and considered in reference to those buildings, by reducing their scale, and more especially of St. Martin's Church, have an injurious effect on those edifices. As a site for the column itself, or indeed for any monument, (without reference to objects now erected,) the position referred to is most favourable."

Mr. John Deering.—"I think the proposed Nelson Monument presents that precise character of altitude most to be desired at the particular site intended, where a great and wide street of entrance necessarily branches off right and left into a principal artery of the metropolis, and where the idea of termination is the impression most essential to be avoided; for we must recollect that the object is not to arrive at Trafalgar-square or the National Gallery, it is to convey to the mind of the stranger the true and peculiar character of our capital, its endless continuation. If this view be correct, the worst object would be a plain unbroken mass, which like the County Fire Office to its site (grasped by the eye at once), conveys the idea of obstruction, and limits consideration to its own pretensions alone, as the sole object of the whole arrangement. The broken line of architecture in the National Gallery obliges the eye to travel

along its length, but the proposed form completely gets over the difficulty, presenting a magnificent object in the vista of approach, while it leaves the idea of space beyond, and suggests the idea of divergence, without obstruction, where that idea is most essential. I cannot suppose the effect would be unfavourable upon the National Gallery, for although that building could be no longer seen in its whole extent from any point more distant than the column, I doubt whether its broken character of outline and laboured details, as well as smallness of parts, do not require that it should not be seen, as a whole, beyond the distance whence those features could be visible at the same time, and so form as it were a part of the design; but on the whole, I think it equally certain that, in its magnitude, this monument, in reducing to comparative insignificance, not only the Gallery, but St. Martin's Church, (its pedestal being nearly as large as the portico, and the whole nearly as high as the spire of that building,) will not also be a monument equally unfavourable to the memory of those who spoil the National Gallery inside and outside for the assumed sake of a building, of which the unimportance will be thus placed in its true light. But notwithstanding, we must not forget that the great end should be to adorn the metropolis, and not to persuade the unwilling of the architectural beauty of Trafalgar-square, or any particular building around its circuit."

It would be difficult to collect opinions, even on matters of taste, more contradictory: but a majority agreed that the site is a good one, as indeed appears obvious enough to non-professional people: at any rate, it is decided on—the nature of the inquiry itself was into "the Plan sanctioned by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests," and the Nelson Monument was included in that plan, and the ground had been appropriated to the use of the Committee, and the foundation excavated. No one, of course, was asked as to the propriety of erecting such a monument anywhere, and under any circumstances; but it came out incidentally that doubts had been entertained whether it were possible to do so with safety,—that the Committee (!) suggested that government should consult some professional men on the subject, and that the question had been accordingly submitted to Sir R. Smirke and Mr. Walker, the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, in compliance with whose recommendation the Column has been reduced "not less than thirty feet." There is, indeed, no example, ancient or modern, of a Corinthian column, with its slender shaft and deep flutings, having been adopted for a monument of such magnitude; nor will this example ever be followed. A column in itself, and by itself, is an absurdity—and a Corinthian column the most absurd that could have been selected. But observe, here is a monument to be erected to the memory of Nelson, whose statue, however, is to be stuck up so far out of sight that Portland stone is thought good enough for the purpose;—true, as Sir Francis Chantrey significantly observed, "its bird-like size will not be much in the way, and, if formed of Portland stone, it will not be long in the way;" and that within any reasonable distance the statue will not be seen at all, from the peculiar form and size of a Corinthian capital.

Yet, after all this fortunate curtailment, it seems doubtful whether adequate funds can be raised to complete the Monument, even with its Portland stone statue. The estimate is 28,000*l.*, the cost will not probably be less than 30,000*l.*, whereas the amount subscribed is 12,534*l.*, to which may be added a further sum of 5,545*l.*, transferred from the Patriotic Fund. But if even sufficient funds be raised to complete the masonry, including, of course, under this head the statue, the column will probably remain a denuded mass, without its bas-reliefs. Such a result might, at the first blush, seem to be disgraceful to the nation,—but it is an impor-

tant fact, and not without consolatory inferences, that the subscription came to a standstill, the moment it was known that the Committee had selected as "the best design" a Corinthian column. This is, we think, an intelligible hint that if persons utterly wanting in the required knowledge will thrust themselves into such situations, or if the mean and servile will thrust such honour upon them, the public will not consent to open its purse merely to perpetuate evidence of folly and incapacity. The Wyatt people not long since made another desperate effort to eke out their subscription; but we doubt whether, after all their quacking, they collected more than sufficient to defray the expense of advertising.

But enough of speculation—and we shall conclude at once, with so much of the Report as relates to this immediate subject;—for, as to the general inquiry into Mr. Barry's plan for laying out the vacant area, it was wholly subordinate:—

"Your Committee are of opinion that such a column so situated would have an injurious effect upon the National Gallery, by depressing its apparent altitude, and interrupting that point of view which should be least interfered with. They are of opinion that a column of such dimensions will render the surrounding buildings less important, and, so situated, will not group well with anything in its neighbourhood. They are of opinion that, as approached from Whitehall, as seen at the termination of this grand avenue, which forms one of the principal entrances of the metropolis, the appearance of the National Gallery will be much injured by the column. In this point of view the column will cut the National Gallery through the centre, and the pedestal of the column alone will nearly conceal both the portico and the cupola. They are of opinion that the site selected is not a favourable position for the column itself. There is another point to which your Committee will advert, which is, that the statue of King Charles is not in a line with the column; nor could this defect, from the proximity of the two objects, fail to catch the eye. So long as there is no column in the proposed situation, the statue of King Charles, where it now stands, is a fortunate circumstance, offering a subordinate object, in front of the National Gallery, which serves as a scale, without obstructing the view. Your Committee, entertaining these opinions, are unable to avoid arriving at the conclusion, that it is undesirable that the Nelson Column should be placed in the situation which is at present selected. If it is desirable in a great city to suggest the idea of space, and having once obtained space, not to block it up again; if the general architectural effect of Trafalgar-square, or of the buildings around it, is to be at all considered; or if, at any time, an equally conspicuous position should be desired for any other monument, the situation at present selected for the Nelson Column is most unfortunate."

Narrative of the Campaign of the Army of the Indus, in Sind and Kaubool, in 1838-9. By R. H. Kennedy, M.D. 2 vols. Bentley.

Dr. Kennedy's work is misnamed; it is not so much a narrative of the campaign, as a criticism on the civil and military policy adopted by the Indian government towards all the powers on its western frontier, and a criticism completely in the spirit of those who "hint a fault and hesitate dislike." The facts of the case are not yet sufficiently before the public, to enable us to decide how far the severity of the Doctor's strictures has been merited, but the querulous tone of his writings would lead to the inference that his criticism is generally captious and one-sided. This unpleasant tone is the more to be lamented, as the author occasionally shows traces of a superior power and better disposition; there is evidently a kindliness in his nature, which has been soured by feelings of what he deems unmerited neglect, either of himself or his friends; and if he had not hastened into print, he would

probably have softened some of his censures and withdrawn others.

To criticize criticism is no very pleasing task; a hot controversy in the broiling month of August is anything but desirable; we shall, therefore, confine our notice to the narrative and anecdotal parts of the Doctor's book, and we wish that it had borne a larger proportion to the whole.

The formation of a company for the steam-navigation of the Indus, renders every account of the river's capabilities interesting, especially as those already published go through every shade of contradiction, from the entrance being nearly impracticable to its being of as easy access as the Thames: personally, indeed, we are quite content with the disinterested report of Lieut. Wood (*Athen. ante*, p. 478). Dr. Kennedy's account holds a medium between the two extremes: he describes the entrance as dangerous from the shifting of the sand-banks, but he thinks that this might be remedied by art. The first view of the most frequented mouth of the river is, however, anything but encouraging:—

"At nine o'clock the vessels at anchor at the Humjamry mouth of the Indus were despatched ahead, and at twelve o'clock the steamer anchored near the Palinurus; nothing of land was to be seen but the long low sandbank, and a beacon landmark, built apparently to about four feet high of pile-work, with a lozenge-shaped target at the summit. A more dreary prospect was never exhibited; and considering, as we may, that, excepting what the Portuguese may have done, ours is probably the first armament which has appeared to force a way up the Indus since the fleet of Nearchus sailed out, two thousand years ago, we may safely conjecture in addition, that a more unpromising coast for the disembarkation of an army has been seldom approached or left since that day by any fleet of transports."

A gratifying circumstance occurred at the landing, which deserves to be noticed, because the exercise of ordinary humanity is so rare in India, that the display of it produces a strong moral effect:—

"Our approach to this coast was not without its favourable omen: two native boats, laden chiefly with female passengers, proceeding on a caste wedding errand to Mandavie, in Kutch, were, through misfortune or mismanagement, upset on the bar of the Indus; the Hannah transport had anchored in sight, and her boats were immediately lowered to assist the sufferers. Through the strenuous exertions of Captain McGregor of that vessel, and Lieutenant Carless of the Indian navy, who was fortunately on board, every individual of the crews and passengers of the two botillas was saved. The natural feelings of British seamen were new to the natives of Sind, and such alacrity in personal exposure and labour for the benefit of strangers was inexplicable. 'You have come,' said the chief matron of the rescued party, 'to conquer Sind; and, God is great! you deserve to conquer it.'"

The unpleasant aspect of the mud-banks on the Indus is aggravated by the absence of animal life.

"The absence of sea-birds forms a singular trait in the character of the Indian seas; scarcely a single living thing appeared in the sky above, or the sea below, betwixt Bombay and the Indus. The gigantic albatross and the sea-pigeons roam to many hundred miles from the coast of Africa; here, within four miles of the muddy banks, only a very few sea-birds hovered round us. By the help of glasses, we could discover flocks of flamingoes on the distant beach, but they never travelled seaward."

We shall not enter into an examination of the reasons Dr. Kennedy assigns for recommending an immediate appropriation of Kurachy harbour; indeed, were his advice taken, government would occupy the whole line of coast; we shall rather accompany him on his march through Sind, and glance at some of his annoyances, which leave Beresford's miseries far behind. Servants are a plague everywhere, but Indian servants would

have provoked Job himself, and Dr. Kennedy fell on the very worst of the lot. Even the baggage animals contributed to his discomfort.

"There is scarcely a more disagreeable sound than that of the camel's outraged feelings with which he groans and grumbles and resents every fresh addition to his load, and every tug and pull upon the ropes that form the rude fastening of his huge burthen: it conveys a distinct idea of reproach and remonstrance, and is uttered in such loud and discordant tones, that a camel-man must have a heart of stone to be able to endure it."

Tatta, once so renowned as a commercial metropolis, has so far sunk, that doubts have been raised as to the existence of its former magnificence; but Dr. Kennedy declares that the grandeur of its ruins attests the truth of the historians, and he mentions one circumstance which is a proof of its former civilization:—

"Nothing that I have ever seen has at all equalled the perfection of the art of brick-making which is shown in the bricks to be found in these ruins: the most beautifully chiselled stone could not surpass the sharpness of edge and angle, and accuracy of form; whilst the substance was so perfectly homogeneous and skilfully burnt, that each brick had a metallic ring, and fractured with a clean surface like breaking free-stone. I will not question the possibility of manufacturing such bricks in England; but I much doubt whether such perfect work has ever been attempted."

The Ameers of Sind have the unenviable distinction of being the worst sovereigns of any country even in Asia.

"Some ruins were pointed out to us, indicating the site of a once populous village which had been destroyed, and its inhabitants exiled to a distant district, by one of their princes, because 'the crowing of the village cocks, and other rural sounds of its human and animal population, disturbed the game in his brother's shikargah.'"

Even their sports are cowardly and contemptible:—

"The mode of hunting pursued by those valorous Nimrods, so cruel to their dependents, so helpless before their enemies, is characteristic of the men and their position. The shikargahs are fenced round with strong hedges, and in some places walled; and the wild animals thus stockaded-in are supplied with water by a drain from the river. When a grand hunt is ordered, the supply of water is cut off for a few days, and restored only when the hunting party, in elevated and safe positions commanding the water-course, are prepared to destroy the poor beasts that rush to slake their thirst; and to this contemptible butcher-work is the term hunting applied in Sind."

One of these shikargahs took fire while the army lay encamped in its vicinity, and three British officers, who had gone in search of game into its jungles, were burned to death. Unfortunately, the soldiers were persuaded that they had been murdered by the Beloochiees, and were disposed to take severe revenge. Though prevented for the time, it is feared that the occurrence led to subsequent cruelties, which the men justified to themselves as reprisals.

The account of Kandahar shows that this city has long fallen from its pride of place; but some traces of its former luxury remain, in the taste and skill with which the buildings are decorated.

"The walls had a novelty of decoration not peculiar to Afghanistan, as I have seen it in India, though never so well done as in the rooms I speak of;—the chunam or plaster being stamped when moist and plastic, and worked into a pattern, over which a varnish of powdered tale is spread, which more nearly resembles the richness and hue of new and unused frosted silver-plate than anything I have seen elsewhere. This might be introduced in London—a very cheap and elegant drawing-room decoration."

Dr. Kennedy complains bitterly of the benefits which the invaded countries derived from the expenditure for the support of the army, and strangely enough concludes that this will facilitate the march of some hostile power to our own territories.

"Our expenditure in Kandahar and Kaubool surpasses all that those districts have seen or dreamt of in the past century, and has filled the country with money. The enriching, the fertilizing process of the next ten years, which must result from wealth and peace, will convert the bare valleys of Afghanistan into a garden; the districts we found deserts will become populous clusters of villages, and we are not to compare the future with the past. We are smoothening the way, and providing the resources, for the advance of an enemy from the West. For thirty years we have shuddered and trembled at this bugbear; and every step we have taken, in Persia first, and last and most fatally in Afghanistan, has been to facilitate the very result we opposed: we appear, like a moth, to have flown round and round the flame, and at last to have run headlong into it."

If such a result should follow, which is, however, extremely improbable, it would be for the service of England, for most assuredly Russia would not imitate such liberality. In still worse taste he states, that if the Russian policy had been developed, and its army advanced, the campaign would have proved unfavourable to the English, whence he sagely concludes that our soldiers should not have advanced until these contingencies had happened,—that is, until success were impossible.

"Had Miraub Khan of Khelant defended the Bolan Pass; had Haji Khan Kaukur not deserted in the Kojuk; had Kandahar resisted for a week, or Ghizni been properly defended; had the twenty-eight guns we found abandoned at Argunda been bestowed for the defences of Kandahar and Ghizni; and had the twelve hundred cavalry shut up in the latter fort been occupied in merely riding round us, or two marches in front, wasting all forage, and watching all foraging parties from the Bolan Pass to Kaubool; finally, had Russian agency been so far developed and established, as it was supposed, and ought to have been, to have justified such a campaign; had any one of those contingencies occurred,—and not only one, but all were to be looked for,—the army could not have advanced," &c.

The description of the storming of Ghizni adds little to the information already published, but the following anecdote is worthy of being recorded:—

"On the evening before the storm, my duty led me to prepare the field-hospitals, &c. and to arrange for the expected casualties. On visiting the hospital-tents of her Majesty's 2nd and 17th regiments, I was surprised to find them cleared of sick! The gallant fellows had all but risen in mutiny on their surgeons, and insisted on joining their comrades! none remained in hospital but the hopelessly bedridden, who literally could not crawl; and even of these, a portion, who could just stand and walk, were dressed, and made to look like soldiers, to take the hospital guard: no effective man could be kept away!"

Having so long viewed the Doctor in his character of a censorious critic, we shall, for relief, introduce him as a eulogist, and take his description of the delicious fruits of Kabool:—

"But who can describe the vineyards and grapes of Kaubool, from the incomparably delicious, the small, stoneless, pale, salmon-coloured kismis, which is dried for the Sultana raisin, to the large, plump, fleshy, plum-like, dark-purple grape, the giant of its race, an inch and a half in length, and which is really too much for one mouthful! I had no conception of the fruit of such a size. The melons of Kaubool are not degenerate from the days of Sultan Bauber: every variety and every size, of the most exquisite perfume and flavour, were sold at little more than a penny each for the best and largest. 'In the name of the prophet figs!' has become an English jest; but 'in the name of the prophet melons!' is nothing *outré* in Kaubool. I saw some of our Mahomedan troops of the Bengal cavalry stopping at a fruit-shop; and, curious to ascertain the prices they would be required to pay as contrasted with our own payments, I listened to the bazaar discussion. 'In the name of the holiest and most blessed Prophet!' said the melon-seller, 'no fruiterer in Kaubool can sell you a better melon for less than three pie.'—'You say so, do you?' said the trooper.—'I do!' replied the man

of melons, stroking his beard, and turning up his eyes heavenward.—“You do?” said again the trooper, handling and feeling the fruit with a look so demure that I thought he was coming Sam Weller over his friend.—“I do!” was the reply.—“Now, do you mean to say,” rejoined the trooper, “in the name of the holy and blessed Prophet, who ascended to the seventh heaven on the back of Borak, that you, as one of the faithful, sell your melons at three pise each to the exalted and immaculate believers of this great and glorious city of Kaubool?”—“I do!” said the rejoicer in the melon pattern, with another manipulation of his beard, and another meek glance upwards.—“May God give us no worse melons in heaven!” said the trooper, and paid his three pise; and shouldered a melon as big as his head with his shako on it!”

Three of the persons engaged in the expedition are alone mentioned with eulogy, but these merit all his praise:—

“Lord Auckland has had the good fortune to meet such men as Burnes, Lord, and Outram; and has the good sense to appreciate their merits. Time and the hour will do Burnes justice. Lord is on the direct road to distinction, whither the highest order of intellect and the most accomplished mind must lead him onward, and establish for him a distinguished reputation. Outram has proved that mind and energy are not to be trampled under foot: his course seems now to be smooth before him, if his health should be spared in the deadly region of the valley of the Indus, and at the capital of Sind, to which he is appointed Resident.”

After such an example of hearty approbation, we fear to be betrayed into censure, and therefore close the volumes.

Since the above was written, we have received Captain Havelock's ‘Narrative of the War in Afghanistan,’ but must defer the notice of it.

Memoirs, Letters, and Comic Miscellanies in Prose and Verse, of the late James Smith, Esq. Edited by his Brother, Horace Smith, Esq. 2 vols. Colburn.

THESE memorials of one who for a long period contributed his portion of *salt* to the society and the fugitive literature of London, with all the devotion to its streets, squares, and theatres of a Dr. Johnson or a Charles Lamb, call for no extended introduction, still less for close criticism. The life of “Mr. Smith, who paid his addresses to some one in Drury Lane, which were rejected,” (as Mrs. Parthian had it,) was too easy and too prosperous to offer subject for expatiation, either on the part of biographer or reviewer; while the ‘Miscellanies in Prose and Verse’ have already been given to the world, and drawn their tribute from Mirth's gold to its copper coin—from the genteel smile to the broad grin. Following a short memoir, some hundred pages of letters addressed to Mrs. Torre Holme, are the amount of the new matter contained in the work. We shall draw upon these: we shall draw, too, upon our old friends—the songs, the sketches, and the epigrams; seeing that some of our readers have less tenacious memories than ourselves, and many, alas! are younger.

The first letter gives us a rather apocryphal conversation with Madame Guiccioli—the second a Garrick charade, and a “pencil” of Moore:—with Lockhart's opinion in little of the Irish:—

“Some of the wags last night at the Garrick were making charades.—I puzzled them with the following:—‘An old post, a swing, and a daub of a picture, make a bad sign.’ They all gave it up; whereupon I told them it was a truism—those materials do make a bad sign.—I dined yesterday at Murray's. Moore was very pleasant, although not in good health. He said his forte was music, and that he was no poet apart from that sensation. He talked of the different manner in which George the Fourth was received in Edinburgh and in Dublin, contrasting the dignity of the former with the servility of the latter; and he

said, ‘The contrast makes me blush for my countrymen.’ After all, the two modes of reception are merely constitutional. The Scotch are naturally sedate, and the Irish extravagant: Lockhart says the last are all mad, more or less.”

Subsequently, we have a glimpse of Pelham and Pompeii:—

“I dined yesterday with E. L. Bulwer, at his new residence, in Charles-street, Berkeley-square, a splendidly and classically fitted-up mansion. One of the drawings is a fac-simile of a chamber which our host visited at Pompeii.—vases, candelabra, chairs, tables, to correspond. He lighted a perfumed pastille modelled from Mount Vesuvius. As soon as the cone of the mountain began to blaze, I fancied myself an inhabitant of the devoted city; and, as Pliny the Elder, thus addressed Bulwer, my supposed nephew:—‘Our fate is accomplished, nephew. Hand me yonder volume;—I shall die as a student in my vocation. Do you then hasten to take refuge on board the fleet at Misenum. Yonder cloud of hot ashes chides thy longer delay. Feel no alarm for me.—I shall live in story. The author of Pelham will rescue my name from oblivion.’ Pliny the Younger made me a low bow.”

Our last lot from the letters (to speak à la Robins) shall consist of a *bon mot*—an illustration of toleration—a strange story—and a judgment on painters:—

“The people at Bath surpass the Athenian sage. He merely chewed the pebbles, but, according to the *Morning Herald*, ‘At Bath the Victoria Column is in everybody's mouth.’”

“A Calvinistic lady, whose brother had turned Unitarian, was reminded that he notwithstanding was a good man. ‘That very circumstance,’ said the sister, ‘proves that he is a doomed man. The devil is so sure of him for his want of faith, that he does not take the trouble to corrupt his morals.’”

“A young, talented, and handsome married woman, whom he would only designate as Camilla, called upon him relative to an engagement on the stage. She had every requisite. B— strongly advised her against it, telling her that his various horrors would be insupportable to a gentlewoman. She had, it appeared, a brute of a husband, from whom she had separated herself. She one day called upon B—, and seeing on the mantel-piece a phial marked ‘poison,’ asked him if he could help her to some slow poison. She appeared learned upon that head, mentioning a slow poison known ages ago, as *Toffonia*, and alluding to Madame Brinvilliers, who had destroyed several persons by that mode. He of course said that he could not accommodate her. Being, upon reflection, prevailed upon to forego her design of going upon the stage, she was induced to return to her husband. Her last letter to B— was written at the bedside of her husband, who, she said, was suffering under a slow and consuming illness. Not long ago, an elderly lady in black called upon B—, calling herself the mother of Camilla, and earnestly requesting to know whether he was acquainted with the place of her daughter's retreat; adding that her husband had died, and that Camilla had thereupon suddenly absconded! B— assured her (with truth) that he was quite ignorant upon the subject. Is not this a strange narrative? and does it not appear very probable that Camilla had administered *Toffonia*, and, frightened at what she had done, had made a rapid retreat into obscurity?”

“I don't fancy painters. General Phipps used to have them much at his table. He once asked me if I liked to meet them. I answered, ‘No; I know nothing in their way, and they know nothing out of it.’”

We are now at the Comic Miscellanies: they begin with ‘The Land of Promise,’ an American Fudge Correspondence. The following lines comprise the quintessence of Fearon's, Trollope's, Hall's, Hamilton's, Marryat's, and many other impartial judgments of the institutions, habits, and manners of the United States:—

“Can you ride in a cart when the weather is foggy?
Can you get, every night, not quite tipsy, but groggy?
If wet, at the fire of an inn can you sit
Round and round, to get dry, like a goose on a spit?
In telling a tale can you ponder and prose?
Can you spit through your teeth? Can you talk through your nose?”

Can you sit out the second-hand tragical fury
Of emigrant players, discarded from Drury?
Can you place Foot Barlow above Foot Pope?
Can you wash at an inn, without towel or soap?
Can you shut either eye to political knavery?
Can you make your white liberty mix with black slavery?
Can you spit on the carpet and smoke a cigar?
If not, my dear Jeremy, stay where you are.”

In another leash of rhymes, lurks a sly morsel of worldly wisdom, on the strength of which many a man has started—aye, and succeeded—in politics:—

“Friend Barrow, take warning; keep snug in the storm;
Cajole men and welcome; but never reform;
With Bentham bewilder, with Buonaparte frighten,
With Accum astonish; do all but enlighten;
Who aims at enlightening, only out-fools
An ophthalmic drug to a nation of moles.”

Here, too, to come from national to family questions, is a social hint hardly less valuable:—

“Broadstairs is a capital station for falling in love. I strongly advise all matrons with growing-up daughters, to go thither in preference to Margate or Ramsgate. The double pier and steam-vessels in the former place, and the view of the Downs from the latter, occupy the mind too much; there is no room for the tender passion. But at Broadstairs, after a young man and maiden have eaten their morning prawns, and taken their morning yawns, they have nothing to do but to fall in love till eleven o'clock at night. There is no raffle at the libraries, and the Tract Society meetings only occur once a month.”

Shortly afterwards, in another paper, we find a portrait of one whom such maxims especially concern,—it being a full-length of ‘The Attorney,’ on a smaller scale than one of the ‘Heads of the People,’ but more graphically touched off:

“Smedley Jones was lately an articulated clerk to an attorney—I beg his pardon, a solicitor—in Furnival's Inn, Holborn; but recently out of his time, and therefore qualified to kill game on his own account. He wears black half-gaiters, and is a member of the Philomonic Society; exhibits much wisdom, little whisker, and no shirt collar; sippers; makes a gentle bow at the close of every sentence, with his chin touching his left collar-bone; criticizes the new law courts; wears lead-coloured gloves; affects a beaver with a broad brim; nods at the close of every sentence when the Court of Exchequer pronounces a judgment, by way of encouraging the three puisne barons; and carries his pantaloons to his tailor's in a blue bag that they may pass for briefs. There is a lame clerk in the Three per Cent. Consol Office at the Bank, with whom Smedley Jones appears to be on terms of considerable intimacy. I rather suspect that the motive of this conjunction is, that the latter may obtain private information with respect to certain funded property appertaining to certain widows and maidens, his attention to whom rises and falls accordingly. It is an unquestionable fact, that whenever a young man rises, like Smedley Jones, upon his toes in walking; waltzes with every thick-ankled girl that would otherwise be a wall-flower for the whole evening; looks benevolently downward upon his own cheeks, sings a second at church, and boasts of belonging to no club; he may, to a certainty, be set down as one who means to let fly an arrow at Plutus through the Temple of Hymen.”

We had marked some half dozen of ‘The London Lyrics’ for our *olla*; but perhaps these snatches of Martial in the metropolis—not less clever, are less known:—

Heraldry.

Where'er a hatchment we discern,
(A truth before ne'er started.)

The motto makes us surely learn

The sex of the departed.

If 'tis the husband sleeps, he deems

Death's day a “felix dies,”

Of unaccustom'd quiet dreams,

And cries—*In celo Quies.*

But if the wife, she from the tomb

Wounds, Parthian like, “post tergum,”

Hints to her spouse his future doom,

And threatening cries—*Resurgam!*

The next is an old Joe, but none the worse for its age:—

Thanks for a Place.

An old Borough-reeve served a politic Duke,

And proved, by so doing, a wiseman;

For the politic Duke opportunity took

To make his friend's son an exciseman.

Dick, led by his father, the nobleman saw,
And certainly well to behave meant;
With many a bow he put out his fore paw,
And scraped his hind leg on the pavement.
"I'm come, Sir, to thank you, but feel here a burr;
At speaking I be but a fresh un."
The Borough-reeve whispered, "Boy, don't call him Sir,
Your Grace is the proper expression."
"When fether, Sir, told me I'd gotten the place,
I skipt like a colt in a paddock;"
"Sir, again?" cried the father,—"you fool! say your
Grace—
Say your Grace—you're as deaf as a haddock!"
Thus tutor'd, the son of the old Borough-reeve
Cried out, with a pious endeavour,—
"For what we are going this day to receive,
The Lord make us thankful for ever!"

Two more, and we have done with the verse:

Epigram.

Quoth Tom at Leigh's play, "The poor hard must look wan.
I don't think the public will clap it all,
For in the fourth act all the interests gone."
Quoth Dick, "Then the fifth must be capital."

On a late Racing Nobleman.

Here lies of quadrupeds the slave,
Of woman-kind the gay deceiver,
Unskild a favourite race to save,
He lost a heat—and gain'd a fever.

To those who doubt that life's a span,
His lordship's fate will plainly show it—
Once on the turf a living man,
But now a skeleton below it.

The shade of Martial would haunt us, were
we to close our notice without showing him in
his favourite haunt—the Green-room. "Eight-
teenthly and To Conclude, then,"—as the divine
said, whose sermon kept the inimitable Dugald
Dalgetty so long on the tenterhooks, while he
was escaping from Castle Inverary,—we shall
wind up with three anecdotes:—

"Sheridan was dining at Peter Moore's with his
son Tom, who was at that time in a very nervous,
debilitated state. The servant, in passing quickly
between the guests and the fire-place, struck down
the plate-warmer. This made a deuce of a rattle,
and caused Tom Sheridan to start and tremble.
Peter Moore, provoked at this, rebuked the servant,
and added, 'I suppose you have broken all the
plates!' 'No, sir,' said the servant, 'not one.' 'No!'
exclaimed Sheridan; 'then you have made all that
noise for nothing.'

"Old Wewitzer was joking and laughing at re-
hearsal, instead of minding the business of the scene.
Raymond, who was then stage-manager, took him to
task for this, and said, 'Come, Mr. Wewitzer, I wish
you would pay a little attention.' 'Well, sir,' an-
swered Wewitzer, 'so I am: I'm paying as little as
I can.'

"Sheridan and Delpini fell into high words rela-
tive to an arrears of salary due to the latter, as Man
Friday in the 'Robinson Crusoe' of the former.
Sheridan, provoked at what he deemed the insolence
of the pantomimist, told him that he had forgotten
his station. 'No, indeed, Monsieur Sheridan, I have
not,' retorted Delpini; 'I know the difference be-
tween us perfectly well. In birth, parentage, and
education, you are superior to me; but in life, char-
acter, and behaviour, I am superior to you!'"

*Letters from Italy to a Younger Sister. By
Catherine Taylor. Murray.*

HAVING so lately noticed Von Raumer's work
on Italy, our readers will probably scan the title
of Miss Taylor's volume with some little impa-
tience. In deprecation, perhaps, of such a feeling,
the lady informs her readers, "that in writing,
her object has not been novelty, but utility."
"Among the various works on Italy," she adds,
"that have fallen in my way, I have not found
one which brings this country, with all its in-
teresting associations, within the reach of young
people." This is a fair announcement, and will
probably serve the interests of the publication
better than a more promising flourish of trump-
ets; for, truth to tell, though the subject has
been overwrought, a work which should bring
the theme "within the reach of young people"
is still a desideratum. Notwithstanding all that
is thinking and (at length) doing for education,
pedantry has still got too exclusive a hold upon

the instruction of youth; and the few works it
produces as subsidiary to class studies, are of such
dry and skeleton-like hardness, as to be scarcely
readable. On the subject of Italy, we know
of no work destined to lead the young student
of the humanities to an acquaintance with the
land, with whose ancient language he is striving
to become familiar, that is in the least calculated
to awaken imagination, or excite enthusiasm,—
and so to inspire a real interest in the task in
which he is embarked. With respect to modern
Italy, more especially, there is a dreary blank
in the routine of all classical instruction; and
thus the history of the Romans, and all that is
taught respecting them, assumes so ideal and
abstract a shape in the youthful mind, that it is
with difficulty the people are considered as having
been human beings. For the general formation
of the youthful mind, there are few subjects better
adapted than a Tour through Italy, if written by a
person of common feeling and some little reading.
The first developments of modern civilization—
the rise and progress of the republics, and their
struggles with both temporal and spiritual despot-
ism—the revival of literature and of the fine
arts,—involve a little encyclopædia of themes,
all intimately connected with the intellectual
and moral nature of man, and admirably calcu-
lated to call forth thought, and to ripen and test
the moral notions of the student, to engender
rational criticism, and to beget a nobility of char-
acter. For this purpose, a profound and intima-
te acquaintance with all the subjects which
offer themselves, is of less consequence, than the
art of presenting them under a stimulating and
interesting aspect. It is less the individual
judgment than the general impression, about
which we should be anxious. Embark the young
reader fairly in his subject, teach him its extent,
and arouse in him a feeling of its various and
complicated claims on his attention, and he will
himself hardly fail to correct any individual
errors, and fill up superficial or defective infor-
mation by ulterior reading. On this account,
we are inclined to think that a female is better
fitted for the task, than the less excitable male
writer; and Miss Taylor seems by no means in-
sensible to the true nature of her mission. "As
it has," she says, "been my chief wish to
awaken an interest in subjects of importance,—
to stimulate rather than to satisfy the young
mind,—I have endeavoured to give such brief
historical sketches as might lead to a further
and deeper study of the events in which Italy
has acted so great a part—in literature, to advert
to the treasures which the Italian language con-
tains; and in art, to furnish such information
as might assist in the formation of a pure and
correct taste." All this is at once sensible and
modest.

There is another merit in the conception of
the work, of which we are not disposed to think
lightly; and that is, the absence of all deliberate
effort to sound the shallows of the child's intelli-
gence, and to sink to its level. Of all the efforts
made in the way of teaching, this is usually the
least happy. Most commonly, the works dicta-
ted by such a spirit are more remarkable for
baldness than for simplicity: written for chil-
dren, they are worse than childish—below the
intellects to which they are addressed. This error,
moreover, is by no means incompatible with the
introduction of matter really above the calibre of
youth, brought forward under the notion of in-
culcating what is proper. Nothing, in fact, is
more difficult than for an educated, adult intel-
lect really to enter into an unformed mind; and,
perhaps, none but an observing and sensible
mother ever is fully aware of what is, and what
is not, beyond the young person's grasp. In
writing for children, therefore, it is by the plain
statement of fact, the shortness and clearness of

the reasoning, rather than by the trifling nature
of the matter and the sterility of remark, that
the proper end is to be attained. In the moral
world, more particularly, there is nothing really
beyond the understanding of even very young
persons, if the elements to be weighed are pro-
perly presented;—and therefore none but the
best reasons should ever be urged for or against
its propositions.

How far the author has succeeded in hitting
the *juste milieu* between an exuberant and a
superficial mode of treating particular points, it
is less easy to determine. The quantity of pre-
vious information brought to the perusal, must
differ very widely with different readers; and
we ourselves should probably be tempted to
expect more than is really requisite. That, there-
fore, is a question which must be left to individ-
ual judgment.

On one point, however, we must speak in
terms of decided approbation; and that is the
tone of Christian charity and enlightened libera-
lity which pervades the volume. When we re-
collect the fanatical spirit brought by so many
travellers to Italy, and their unbending determi-
nation to measure all things by their own do-
mestic standards, we are disposed to think highly
of the mind and heart which produced such
passages as the following:—

"As my subject has led me to speak so much of
the superstitions in the ceremonies of the Roman
Catholic worship, I wish to add a few words respect-
ing the view which, in my opinion, as Protestants, we
ought to take on this subject. And in this surely
charity requires us to judge of those who differ from
us in faith, not by *our* rule of right, but *theirs*—not
according to the circumstances under which we have
been educated, but rather to consider the influence
of those in which *they* have been trained. Religion
from the earliest times of Christianity has been pre-
sented to the people of Italy only under the form
which it at present exhibits there—religion founded
upon church authority, whose power has uniformly
been shown through the medium of temporal great-
ness and invested with human grandeur. It is a
religion which avowedly addresses itself to the feel-
ings through outward ceremony, enlisting in its ser-
vice, as aids to this end, the power of art and the
imposing pomp of worship. It appeals not to the
reason, but to the feelings of the worshipper—differ-
ing in this important point from Protestantism, whose
foundation was laid and whose support must be found
in the assent of the reason to belief. But who shall
sit in judgment, and condemn as mere gross idolatry
the worship which to the conscience of his fellow-
man appears the most acceptable to God? We
believe firmly that Catholics are wrong in their opi-
nions, or we should not be conscientious in the pro-
fession of our own; but let us always cherish the
happy and Christian belief, that every one is judged
in the counsels of our common Father by the light
of his own conscience; and, whilst we may and ought
honestly and fearlessly to avow our own opinions,
and endeavour to make others see the reason of our
faith, let us not forget that the highest testimony we
can bring to their truth is a strict accordance with
that blessed spirit of love and charity which unites
us all as Christians."

This contrasts pleasantly with our reminis-
cences of scandalous desecrations of public wor-
ship, by the contemptuous behaviour of English
lookers on, intended as protests against the im-
puted idolatry of the religion of the country.
The English public, indeed, have much to learn,
and more to unlearn, on this head; and heartily
do we rejoice to find a volume dedicated to the
rising generation, in which the matter is so judi-
ciously handled.

In some degree connected with the subject,
we may here quote a passage on the Church
music of Italy, which has the additional merit of
embodying what we consider sound criticism
and refined taste:—

"Hitherto I have heard little which has given me

pleasure; the constant introduction of secular music into the service is offensive; in the midst of religious ceremonies, to hear the airs from Rossini's or Bellini's operas, or noisy overtures of Auber, is so discordant with my feelings that I have often left the church in disgust. Widely different is the effect produced by the music which may be said properly to belong to the Church—I should say rather to the service of religion: for music is truly catholic in its spirit; and in my opinion it is delightful to reflect that, differing as men must do in matters of doctrine and belief, there is a power in this truly divine art which sets aside these differences and appeals to their common sentiments of devotion. It is interesting to observe the various forms under which this power is manifested in the different styles of ecclesiastical music—each according with the tone and spirit of the services to which it is adapted. But those composers who have really understood the powers of their art, and felt the true influences which it is capable of producing, have uniformly studied simplicity and grandeur. I confess that in the compositions of the modern school of church writers—in the masses even of Mozart and Haydn—these principles seem to me often lost sight of or disregarded. The florid style of these compositions (independent of their total disregard of rendering in music an expression of the sentiment of the words) is false in principle, and often offensive in execution. Those alone who have heard the sublime and massive harmonies of Palestrina, performed as they are at Rome by the Papal choir, can feel all the influence which ecclesiastical music possesses over the mind. The Mass which we heard this morning was a noble specimen of the ancient Roman school of music; I was told (but whether on good authority I know not) that this was the famous work of Palestrina which saved music from being banished from the Church service. I could well believe that the divine harmonies we listened to this morning had produced such an effect."

One more extract, (which, taken by itself, will show Miss Taylor to possess a strong natural feeling for art, and no mean tact in matters of taste), and we have done:—

"I will not fill my letter with words which can convey no ideas to your mind, nor attempt any description of the Venus; I will simply tell you my own impression of it. At first (must I own it?) my eye rested unsatisfied on this statue; the goddess who enslaves all hearts seemed to fall far short of my idea of feminine beauty; but as I gazed on her long and earnestly, the small head and insipid face, which at first caught my attention, were forgotten, and, conscious alone of the elegance of form and the exquisite grace which pervades the whole figure, I stood a silent and delighted admirer before her. By grace I do not mean mere loveliness, which is but one form of grace: in its proper sense grace includes all that pleases the eye and satisfies the mind,—the absence of everything which can offend or is unnatural: attitude, to be graceful, must be free from constraint and affectation; but recollect that grace may exist with strength, and be found in the expression of any action of the mind, its passions as well as its gentleness. There is exquisite grace, for instance, in the Madonnas of Rafael, but there is also grace in the figures of his Sibyls. A more beautiful specimen of this attribute of beauty could scarcely be presented to a novice like myself than the Venus de' Medici, and I think of my visit to her this morning as the first of many delightful lessons in art I shall have during my residence in Italy. I could not help laughing to see a gentleman (an American I believe) after gazing in speechless delight at the statue, turn to leave the room, and on reaching the curtain which covers the entrance, look back and kiss his hand to her, uttering at the same time a gentle 'Addio!'"

In conclusion, we repeat that the work is to be taken for what it professes, and no more: for the instruction and amusement of young persons, it may safely be consulted; for more matured intellects, other works will naturally be preferred.

The Ancient Music of Ireland, arranged for the Pianoforte, &c. By Edward Bunting.

[Second Notice.]

UNLIKE his brother editors and collectors of melodies, Mr. Bunting—whom we now meet as a musician, and not as a historian,—commences his labours by marking out the characteristics by which Irish Melodies are to be known. But, instead of placing his subject on a firm footing, he thrusts it very nationally between the horns of a dilemma in his very first definition, which divides the airs into two classes:—those, namely, which are "marked by the omission of the fourth and seventh tones of the diatonic scale, or one of the said tones," and "those which are quite Irish in their structure, having fourth and seventh";—the nullity of this opposition of generic characters being confirmed in the following page, where he says, very coolly, "that these omissions are not the true tokens of our ancient and national music." Let us try again, for some more fixed standard, according to which we may apportion to Patrick his musical goods and chattels. Mr. Bunting is not long in providing it. "The feature which, in truth, distinguishes all Irish melody," he says, "whether proper to the defective bagpipe,—that is, lacking fourth or seventh,—or suited to the perfect harp,—that is, possessing the tones of the entire scale—"is not the negative omission, but the positive and emphatic presence of a particular tone: and this tone is that of the submediant or major sixth; in other words, the tone of ϵ in the scale of α . This it is that stamps the true Scotch character (for we Irish are the original Scoti) on every bar of the air in which it occurs, so that the moment this tone is heard, we exclaim—"that is an Irish melody!" If criterion the first, made up of a negative and affirmative, were somewhat confused, criterion the second is, at all events, sufficiently trenchant and peremptory. According to it, "the original Scoti" are licensed to lay hold upon and claim all tunes emphatically marked with the major sixth!—among others, 'Logie o' Buchan,' 'Whistle o'er the lave on't,' 'The Blathrie o't,' 'The Bonnie Brier Bush,' 'Of a' the airts the wind can blow,'—all the black-key tunes of Scotland, in short, which have been pointed out, for their very black-keyishness, as being exclusively under St. Andrew's protection.* We have but to say, that in making such a swoop upon property, the title to which has never been hitherto disputed, Mr. Bunting seems to us to show a touch of his own hero—Echlin Kane. Let Mr. Graham, Mr. Daune, and Professor Thomson look to it!

To speak more seriously, must we once again point to all such arbitrary demarcations as empirical, and unsatisfactory to those who look beneath the surface, and to whom the early essays of Music are inextricably combined with the habits and position of the musician. Turning from this, to us, barren and unprofitable chapter, Mr. Bunting, in the following one, gives us some minute and interesting details as to the manner of ancient Irish harp performance, and the terms which regulated it. Every string of the instrument had its own name. The two α strings, which were first tuned in unison to the proper pitch, were "the sisters"; the fifth, or the δ string, next tuned, was "the string of melody"; while the λ string was "the servant to the sisters." A long scale, was "a great stream," ascending or descending; a passage, in which the scale was broken into equal groups

* Let us be excused the use of unmusical terms, with the purpose of placing the question in a familiar form before those whom scientific terminology would repel. Every one knows the familiar receipt of manufacturing Scotch tunes, by merely using the black keys of the piano: in the scale thus arbitrarily formed, the major sixth acquires great emphasis and prominence.

of notes, was a "little stream"; every kind of shake, trill, beat, and mordant, moreover,—and these were many, and hard to master on the harp,—had its own name. There are five descriptions of time mentioned: Treble rapid, or jig time,—Dirge time,—Bold, Heroic,—Lamentation,—and time of the Lessons. By the last, we learn that, independently of the march and the dance tunes, by which, as in all other national music, the amusements and ceremonies of daily life were accompanied, without reference to words pronounced and sung, the Irish harpers exercised instrumental composition for its own sake. It may be doubted, however, whether *Purth* time is of an older date than Rory Dall and Connall; since (bearing in mind Mr. Bunting's commentary upon 'Scott's Lamentation,' No. 8 of his collection,) very few of the more antique tunes appear to us to have the lesson character, that is, to be independent of the human voice, or the movement of the body in dancing or marching. Once more, the Irish Harpers had their "modes of the lyre," like the remoter ancients. Among the moods are specified Love—Exciting Sorrow—Soothing—and Merry, Jovial Music. The copious vocabulary which follows gives us some terms even more picturesque and special in application than these. We find in it, 'Music of Cool Shade,' 'Household Music,' 'Vintage Music,' 'Watery-plain lake Music,' 'Flowery-plain strain,' 'Flowing-tide strain.' These denominations, to us, are very precious; since we hold to our own crotchet on the origin of all national music, as pertinaciously as Mr. Bunting holds to his Major Sixth; and our steady reference to the sounds of Nature and of daily life, as among the primal causes of Melody, receives support and confirmation from such a nomenclature as the above; which, however visionary and distant in its allusions, can hardly fail, we think, to point backwards to such an origin. To take it at its lowest value, it is another and a very plausible addition to the list of examples from which such a theory as we have here and elsewhere shadowed forth, must be distilled.

At last we have reached the tunes themselves: one hundred and fifty beautiful and interesting additions to the stock of national airs already before the world. Even the few with which the public is familiar, such as 'Coolun,' 'Aileen Aroon,' and half a dozen others, appropriated by Mr. Moore, are given in the authentic forms, so different from the received ones as almost to amount to novelties:—no end to the ancient readings of the same air! And yet it is difficult to point out which is the true and which the false—which the original and which the altered versions. The very practice of *gracing*, so largely cultivated by the ancient Irish Harpers, and probably in each as individual as the style of a modern pianist (see our last article for the anecdote of "Cousin Burke"), must inevitably have tended to variation, bewilderment, and, finally, to such wider changes as, becoming organic, have taken the form of new creations. Thus, No. 101, 'Black-headed Deary,' is neither more nor less than 'Cean dubh deilish,' (the 'Orangaioil' of the Gael) transcribed in a major key. Thus, on a comparison of No. 78, 'Soft mild Morning,' with No. 100, 'I am asleep, don't waken me,' No. 109, 'Bonny Portmore,' and No. 128, 'The County Tyrone,' not only close similarities will be observed—but in entire melodic phrases, such extensive literal coincidence as warrants our ascribing them to one and the same parentage. The manner in which one of the quartett, 'Bonny Portmore,' is set, gives us occasion to comment upon Mr. Bunting's general style of arrangement, as something too full and rich. He has not, it is true, indulged in many harmonic elaborations, in setting forth

to their best advantage, "the dear, dear, sweet old Irish tunes;" but he has sometimes overloaded them with accompaniment in a cloying quantity. As an instance, the melody of the tune in question is thrown into the bass, in a manner of which neither "Cousin Burke" nor Denis a Hampsy ever dreamed. If they did, we may no longer consider Weber, or Mendelssohn, or Thalberg, as the inventor of the most modern fashion of displaying an accompanied air.

To make a note of one-fifth of the melodies in this collection which have interested us, is impossible. We must point, however, to the singular and echo-like rhythm of the close of Rory Dall's 'Hawk of Ballyshannon' (No. 13), which gives the time a quaint and plaintive wildness. We must not pass, without reprobation of its mannered accompaniment, the subsequent air (No. 15). 'The Black Rose-bud' (No. 19), is a delicious old tune—all the better for its lack of the seventh tone. 'The Brink of the White Rocks' (No. 26), is almost identical in its commencement with 'Cean dubh deilish.' 'Preparing to sail away' (No. 30), though thoroughly national in its rhythm, bears, we cannot but think, in the number of notes which clothe the fundamental melody, marks of the harper's skill. 'The Hornless Cow' (37) and 'Granu weal' (46),—for the anecdote of which fine tune, see the preliminary letter-press,—are as Irish in character (according to the pattern derived from the majority of recognized examples,) as 'Kiss me, Lady' (47), is not: the latter, familiar in every English homestead throughout the north, having far more the air of a tune of the Tyne. 'Get up early' (No. 51), is a capital melody: in its general character bearing a somewhat whimsical affinity to 'Cold and Raw,' which goes throughout Scotland, with the diametrically opposite burden,

'Up in the morning's na' for me.'

'Ballinderry' (56), with its drone-like croon, is a curiosity, upon which Mr. Bunting piques himself, with good reason. 'Charles Machugh, the Wild Boy' (69), brings us on more debatable ground—the first part being merely another set of the Scotch tune best known by Hector McNeill's words, 'Saw ye my wee thing?' We must further just point to 'Consider my Story' (No. 74), with its wild prefatory "Och hone!"—to 'The Pretty Red Girl' (89), for the sake of its odd rhythm of five bars in each strain—to 'Tis a pity I don't see my love' (94), as one of the sweetest and freshest melodies in the collection; and to 'Carrickmacross air' (120), and 'The Foggy Dew' (150), for the same reason. The last, for a very ancient air, is strangely regular in its structure; of which regularity Mr. Bunting has taken cruel advantage to overcrowd the accompaniment.

By this time our musical readers are, we doubt, as impatient of our variations, as if we were the visible blind harper, or street minstrel, who has so often irritated them, by persisting in his tuneless interruptions of their learned contemplations. Here, then, we release them; but not without strongly recommending Mr. Bunting's interesting work to the attention of the musical public, and inquiring whether the art has no ready Fluellen who will in his turn raise his voice for the Bards of the Principality? To compete with the Englishman, the Scotchman, and the Irishman already in the field, he must be learned and discreet, as well as eager. A collection of Welsh melodies, as carefully edited as these have been, is a thing much wanted,—many of the loveliest national tunes being as yet not noted down; or, if noted, unknown beyond the heights and the valleys of their birthplace.

ANTHOLOGY FOR 1840.

"Tom Coxeter," as he was familiarly called, who died some time before the middle of the last century, made a collection of about five hundred volumes of poets, whose works were little known. At Coxeter's death this collection of "All such reading as was never read," was bought by Osborne, the bookseller, and dispersed. "This," said Johnson, "I think a pity, as it was curious to see any series complete; and in every volume of poems something good may be found." But sixty years have gone by since this was uttered in the good-nature of an essay moment, a period which has produced more volumes of verse than all the other eras of English poetry put together. Had Johnson lived into our times he had never hazarded such an opinion,—except on Donne's principle, that none writes so ill that he gives not something exemplary to follow or fly? Who is there that has not sinned in verse? We have, says Ben Jonson, before his Magnetic Lady, divers that drive that trade now;—poets, poetasters,—poetasters and poetites. Dryden complained of the host of rhymers, learned and unlearned; and Pope wondered, with less surprise, at the multitude in his time. But what were they in number or insignificance compared to our own? There is what Otway calls a titillation to poetry in every one. Men and women alike mistake memory for invention, and inclination for power, and write not what is imagination and fancy, but what was; and for ten inspired, five hundred are possessed.

Here we have before us seven volumes of verse, which a Coxeter alone would have added to a collection of British Poets. First and foremost is a little pamphlet, called 'A Welcome to Prince Albert, submitted to the Queen, on the approach of Her Majesty's Marriage,' by the Author of 'Pompeii, the Oxford English Prize Poem for 1827.'

A lowly name on Cornwall's rocky shore,
I breathe this blessing for thy Bride and thee!

and signed R. S. Hawker. The poem consists of thirteen "interwoven stanzas of four," and its author, it will be seen, rushes into his subject at once:—

He comes! a Conqueror! with the soft control,
Mightier than warrior's sword or monarch's hand;
He comes! to claim the Lady of his soul,—
A fearless Knight from the old German land!

But what does he come for? hear our author address Prince Albert:—

'Tis thine the awful couch of kings to share;
The hope of many a land thine arm must shield,
The Beauty of our Isles shall slumber there!
Bring Princes in thy breast across the brine!
Lo! round the chaste form of thy noble Mate,
The future spirits of a shadowy line,
The souls of kings unborn for bodies wait.

This is one of the most delicate and sublime images added of late to English poetry. Curious enough that no University Prize Poem ever found its way into the vast body of English song, nor have we forgotten Milman, Heber, or Hawker, when we say this.

Another candidate for the laurel is one who seeks it with his vizor down, and publishes 'IX Poems by F.' Here is a 'Starlight' with "1828" appended, and other poems written in 1829, to prove, if proof were wanting, that Time will not ripen poetry, though it mellow painting.

Another little volume is 'The Angelicon: a Gallery of Sonnets, on the Divine Attributes,' &c., and its author is "The Rev. H. D. Ryder, M.A., late of Oriel College, Oxford,"—Joe Warton's Oriel! but there is little of Warton or of song about Mr. Ryder. Discourses prefixed to poetry are always contrived to inculcate such tenets as may exhibit their author's labours to the greatest advantage. Mr. Ryder has a preface, in which he tells us that the metre and idea of a poem are alike the subjects of inspiration; and this, we presume, is apologetical and introductory of an inspired metre of his own. Here is a

Sonnet to Music.

Waft me, loved Music! on thy wings,
Where Angel choir in triumph sings,
Where bounding joy exulting towers,
'Mid star-illumined hazyon bowers;
Come, be my breath, my soul, my all,
Obedient to the lyric's call.
Life's pulse! my spiritual blood!
Soul-irrigating, boundless flood!
Tune my poor thoughts on dull-cared earth,
Inspiring of a blessed new birth!
Enbalm my sense, when in the grave
I'm laid, Corruption's wormy slave,
The blast to wait of Resurrection's tromp,
That soon shall summon all to the dread judgment's pomp.

Now, we prefer the following, even without the inspired metre, by Joseph Warton:—

To Music.

Queen of every moving measure,
Sweetest source of purest pleasure,
Music! why thy power employ
Only for the sons of joy?
Only for the smiling guests
At nuptial or at nuptial feasts?
Rather thy lenient numbers pour
On those whom secret griefs devour;
Bid be still the throbbing hearts
Of those whom Death or Absence parts;
And, with some softly whisper'd air,
Smooth the brow of dumb Despair.

The echoes of Warton's music had ceased in Oriel, when Mr. Ryder was a student there.

Shakespeare wrote 'King Henry IV.' in two parts, for the stage; therefore, we presume, the author of an 'Essay on the Oxford Tracts' has written 'King Henry III., Part the First, an Historical Play, in Five Acts,' for the closet. But there is nothing to remind us of Shakespeare, beyond the title. The characters in 'King Henry III.' are without characteristics, the passion without interest, and the language without life. Its author's intreaties are in the "O, Sophonisba! Sophonisba, O!" style, and consist in idle repetitions, such as "O, Leicester, Leicester!"—"Aye, Leicester, Leicester!"—"O, Harry, Harry!"—"But, Harry, Harry!"—"Nay, Cousin, Cousin!" And his ejaculations have the same earnestness:—"St. George, St. George!"—"They come, they come!"—"A man, a man!" This writer is least successful when he lays himself out for display. Prince Edward's address to his horse is in the commonplace of Astley's Amphitheatre, and the speech of Sir Guy on the tropes and figures in some men's discourses, is laboured but ineffective. There are, however, occasional touches of nature in the poem, not new, indeed, but prettily expressed. Thus,—

Prince Henry. I do not find it is so passing hard
To bear imprisonment in this close cell
With an unweaved soul.

Prince Edward. Yes, that may be!
For thou art one of light, inconstant mood;
Thy changeful fickle soul receives no cast—
Retains no impress—is as little stirred
By all the chances and events of life,
As water is by the depicted forms
Cast on its surface, as its current flows
Past towers, and trees, and overshadowing rocks.

The next volume is from the Military Orphan Press at Calcutta, and is called 'Llewellyn.'—This is a love tale, and a feeble echo of Scott's feeblest manner.

The sixth before us is honestly entitled 'Meddlings with the Muse,' by J. A. Simons, and is ushered in by an explanatory preface. Mr. Simons writes in an easy, off-hand, colloquial way, as if every thought of his wore the garb of poetry. Mr. Simons has, it appears, a great contempt for

The pensioned toils
That browse the thistles on Parnassian ways,
And stretch their necks in vain to reach the bays.
Here are his rhymes to recommend his own vagaries:

What is a book without preliminary,
To swell the paper and enhance the price?
And in a work like this, of strange vagary,
Reader, or critic, be not over-nice.
The Muse resolves on making evolutions,
And looks to be encouraged in her vice:
She's in a hedgeless pasture, and her track
Is where she wills, like many a skittish hawk,
Who scorns the reins and rider on her back.
Frithee then pardon her circumlocutions,
And quietly await the tardy fluxions
Of humour in her several introductions.
At times she may become methodical,
Neither restrained, nor episodic.

There is a commendable modesty about Mr. Simons which deserves notice. His volume abounds in poems penned in "Imitation of ****," a gentleman in asterisks, who writes so indifferently, and whom Mr. Simons imitates so perfectly, that he has thought it proper to conceal his name. But we shall skip these harmless imitations, to cull the best bit of verse in the book:—

Violets.

Posy of violets! well do I know
The spot of thy birth;
None lovelier on earth—
Onks waving around, and ye blooming below.
Posy of violets—gems of the year!
Your perfume is not
Like those round my cot,
For double their portion of sweetness ye bear.
Posy of violets! morn's early dew,
Which the wild blossom sips,
Is less pure than from lips
Whence all thy additional fragrance drew.

Poey of violets! sunbeams impart
Soon a withering death;
But, refreshed by her breath,
Ye flourished again, and were worn next her hair.
Poey of violets! live through the year,
When your brethren fade
In the hedgerow or glade;
For double their portion of sweetness ye bear.
'Tropic Sketches, and other Poems,' by A. Clerk,
Esq., are chiefly descriptive sketches of scenes and
circumstances, observed with no everyday eye. Here
is an 'Evening at Rio':—

Now heard no more the negroes' merry song,
As with their short quick step they glide along
In little troops, with measur'd hurried tread,
Their loud supporting on each woolly head:
Their toilsome bondage-work at length is done,
And listlessly they bask them in the sun,
Or plait the hat, or touch the soft-toned shell,
Or grouping raise the laugh, or loud discordant yell.
The merchant now, his daily traffic o'er,
Along the placid bay's smooth sandy shore
Trots slowly homewards, anxious to exchange
The town's dull precincts for a wider range;
On couch outstretch'd, his clerks supinely doze,
And with cigar in mouth from toil repose;
Or slowly pace the crowded streets along,
And join the gossip of the idling throng.
Now shaking off the torpor of the day,
Brazilian dames their dusky charms display;
O'er balconies with folded arms they lean,
Vacantly gazing on the changing scene;
Or, some on visits hasting, some to mass,
Along the streets with mincing steps they pass;
Bend down their eyes, their lips perforce compress,
And feign a modesty too few possess!
Lur'd by the placid stillness of the hour,
Which wins with gentle, yet resistless power,—
Soft as the rays from woman's eyes that dart,
And calm, whilst they enslave, the gazer's heart—
I too my chamber's solitude forsake,
And through the crowded streets my way I take,
Until the hum of men is faintly heard,
Like the sea's murmur when its waves are stirr'd,
And nought my eager-scanning view can trace
But the bay's waters which the hills embrace,
The ocean homes that calm at anchor lie,
Where Europe's various ensigns stream on high,
And the bright sunset of a tropic sky!
O evening! blessed visitant of love,
Mild as an angel from the vault above!
That in thy course, held daily through all time,
Dost greet each zone, and visit every clime,
Rest to the faint and weary dost impart,
And yieldst comfort to the sad of heart,—
Whilst wandering where Baltic's blue waves swell,
I oft imagined that I loved thee well,
Delighted thy soft beauties to behold,
That touch'd the harden'd, and that warm'd the cold,—
But such thy charms, my heart must needs avow,
It never truly loved—I knew thee not till now!

Nor is the following little poem without its merit.—

To a Firefly.

Bright insect! that in airy circles wheeling,
Dost mimic comets in the heavenly sphere;
Or, thy small lantern fitfully revealing,
More like some sportive fairy dost appear,
All unregarded in the garish day,
By night alone thy radiant glories play!
Fit emblem art thou of the good, who seem
Oft scarce distinguish'd from the bustling crowd;
But when departs prosperity's gay beam,
Quench'd in adversity's dark hovering cloud,
They then shine forth, reflecting light divine,
And shine like thee, unconscious that they shine.

Here we conclude, for the present, with a sorrowful
conviction, from the pile of verse yet before us, that
'Tis hard to write, but harder to forbear.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Pope, a novel, by an Old Author in a New
Walk, 3 vols.—The author displays considerable
powers of conception, but he is deficient in the
faculty of combination, by far the most useful in the
new walk of literature he has chosen. The subject,
which is very unlike what the title indicates, is the
condition of Italy in the pontificate of Clement VII.,
when the Chevalier Bayard, the Constable of Bour-
bon, the Marquis of Pescara, and Francis I. of
France, "strutted and fretted their little hour upon
the stage." The delineation of their characters is
more faithful than spirited, and the connexion be-
tween them and the imaginary persons of the story is
very clumsily managed. In short, the book is a
provoking book; it is obviously written by a clever
man, and as obviously it is not a clever work.

The Witch. Translated by Markphrates.—A
tale "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

*An Account of the Persecution of the Jews at Da-
mascus*, by David Salomons, Esq.—The persecution
to which the Jews at Damascus have been lately
subjected, has, from time to time, been made known

to the public through the daily press; and we regret
to learn from this authentic narrative that the facts
have not been exaggerated. The British government,
however, and, no doubt, every other government in
Europe, has indignantly remonstrated against such
atrocities, and, we hope, put an end to them. No
good, therefore, could result from bringing the har-
rowing details again before the reader. But, while
the indignation of the civilized world is thus excited,
it may be well to observe that persecution does not
always assume these horrible forms—that civil dis-
abilities are persecution—and that the great prin-
ciples which Roger Williams proclaimed in the wil-
derness of New England, and Locke expounded to
all Europe—admit neither of reservation nor modifi-
cation; yet there are enactments in the laws of
most States, and in our own statutes we fear, which
must bring a blush into the cheek of those who are
officially called on to remonstrate with the semi-
barbarians of Syria in favour of the poor persecuted
children of Israel.

*Application of a new Analytic Method to Curves
and Curved Surfaces*, by James Booth, A.B., Trinity
College, Dublin.—It is well known, that of late
years, the new methods which have been introduced
in geometry have shown how to produce with ease
results which algebra cannot attain without the most
complicated and prolix details of operation. The
presumption might easily be, that the common modes
of expression in algebra have produced all they can
produce, as far as the theory of curves and surfaces is
concerned. Such is the impression on the mind of
Mr. Booth, who accordingly proposes a new method
of co-ordinates, in which a curve or surface is defined,
not by the relation between the usual rectangular
co-ordinates, but by that which exists between the
parts which a tangent line or plane cuts from the
three axes. This idea is not entirely new—few ideas
are; but the organization of the method, as exhibited
by Mr. Booth, is certainly original, and produces,
with great facility, many results, some old, some
new, and all complicated (in the old system). It is
a step towards that augmentation which analysis
must receive, before it can be again declared superior
to geometry in all points connected with the theory
of curves and surfaces.

Theory of Parallels, by Col. Perronet Thompson.
—This fourth edition professes to be freed from de-
pendence on the theory of limits. How a treatise
which uses the word velocity, (meaning variable
velocity,) can be free of dependence on that theory,
we cannot see. We do not know how to define
velocity, when not uniform, without reference to
limits. The proof of the property of a straight line,
that it is the shortest distance between two points, is
ingenious, and worthy of consideration.

Wesleyan Centenary Takings.—The most promi-
nent taking which the purchaser will find in this
volume is—a taking in.

The Mysteries of the Latin Language unveiled—and
we may add, by way of comment, unexplained.

List of New Books.—Paterson's Roads, new edit. 8vo.
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and Greek Lexicon, 8vo. 2s. cl.—Maxwell's Life of Wellington,
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Mottos, new edit. 2 vols. 12mo. 25s. cl.—Berry's Genealogia
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tions, 2 vols. 8vo. 30s. cl.—Poole's Life and Times of Saint
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veyancing, 5th edit. 2 vols. royal 8vo. 3s. 10s. bds.—Hayes's
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nedy's Dressing-case Manufactory, 49, New Bond-street.

THOUGHTS OF THE BLIND.

The Solitary Woman.

Pass on!—Forbear that idle scoff!
Remember that the blind can feel:
Though beauty's bloom is fading off,
What does its loss reveal?
Mark, where the blossoms fall apart,
The expanding of the fruitful heart!
I know that I am weak and old,
But feel my soul is youthful still:
Bleak winds the surface-waves make cold,
Whose fount they cannot chill:
How'er the ice-blast speeds along,
The current there flows warm and strong.
I stood beside a new-made grave,
Whereon two children were at play;
And Mercy's hand was in the wave
That washed their tears away:—
Twin-born to sorrow—uncreased—
They ne'er had known a mother's breast.
And he who slept was all to them,
And more than all to love and me:
They were the last leaves on the stem
Of that poor perished tree;
And dearer for their orphan sake
Was that sweet bond I could not break!

Strange visions through my brain were thronging—
Wild dreams 'twere better should depart,
As, filled with all a mother's longing,
I clasped them to my heart!—
That fondness had but one alloy,
The sadness of the weight of joy.

For he whose imaged form they wore
My soul had loved as life and light;
No Gheber ever worshipped more
The sun that chased his night;
And these were the last living rays
That cheered my darkened length of days.
Sometimes it was enough to hear
Those voices, sweet in every tone,
When, breathing soft in memory's ear,
They murmured like his own:
But thought would leap from sound to sight,
And, sickening, then I pined for light.

And strange devices I did frame
To trace their fairy features' play;
So true each separate sense became,
My fancy could not stray,
When, wandering o'er each downy cheek,
My touch could of their beauty speak!
But they are gone—and all is past
On which my fondness vainly fed:
And these poor faded limbs outlast
The beauty of the dead:—
My only rest beneath the sky
Is there, where those young sleepers lie!

The Melancholy Mad.

Those whom it sees not can the spirit love?—
Yes! like a spirit; and such love was mine,
And upward soared like an imprisoned dove,
Basking undazzled in the light divine:
And my heart's resting-place was all on high,
Nor knew I yet the fellowship of the worm;

But the poor bird that, fearless, breasts the sky
Must yield its worn wing to the rushing storm,
And mine was broken by a breeze—a sigh
Poured over those who left me here to die!

The world calls this madness;—but he only knows
What madness means, whose inmost heart must
bleed

To find those false who, were they his worst foes,
He had betrayed not in their utmost need.
My thought is too much stricken, or I could speak
Of that through which I fell; for I was dark,
Blighted in vision, and a form most weak
Did point me out for foul derision's mark:
And I did love—and my desertion came;
I knew it—felt it—but forbore to blame.

For who would share a solitude like mine,
So strangely visited?—or who would strive
To lift the crushed fruit of the trampled vine?
Can the bee fill the desolated hive
When its fine cells are scattered and dispersed?
And can I—wearied, helpless, and alone—
Garnish the honey-draughts for which I thirst?
My hive was scattered ere the flowers were blown;
And love—the rose of all!—that, too, did burst
Its petals to the morn that found me thus accursed!

Then unto this most drear abyss I fell,
Self-stricken in my solitude of heart;
And ever above—about—around my cell
Do mocking shadows enter and depart,
Till my vexed spirit groans, and I could bear
Better the torture than this silent aching:
The very trees do sicken in the air

I breathe—so still, that not a leaf is shaking;
And Life sits palsied on the cheek of care—
And Thought is speechless, save in her despair!

The voices that do visit me are not
The voices of mine earlier day;—they seem
But shadows of them,—echoes from that spot
Where love was as the music of a dream!—
All sounds are strange to me;—sometimes a wave
Flows through these caverns where I now abide,
Startling the silence with its hideous rave.
I know not to what gulph I next may glide,
But whether on land or where the waters lave,
That secret shall go with me—to the grave!

The Orphan Sister.

Forsake me not, brother! there's darkness around,
And the burial toll hath a twofold sound;
Like the last sob of death it comes solemn and slow
From the desolate sod where our mother lies low.
I better had borne to have seen her depart;—
Oh! where shall I go from this sickness of heart?
If thou leav'st me to silence, there madness will be,
And the earth were a grave if it were not for thee!

I turn to the past—but wherever I move
The haunts of my childhood are full of her love;
What the sun is to others I felt when she smiled,
And the voice of the mother was light to her child!
I look on the present—and what am I now,
With the void in my breast, and the dust on my brow?
A burthen thou bearest and wilt not forsake—
A chain that thou longest, yet tremblest, to break.
I think of the future—there comfort is none;
A few hurried years and thy place will be gone;
And the love of a dearer shall rend us apart—
And thou'lt steal from my side in the smile of the heart!

And whither and where for support shall I fall,
Shut out from the sunbeam that beameth for all?
Lives there one who can trace me the path of the
wind?

And who, then, shall share in the thoughts of the
blind?

ELEANORA LOUISA MONTAGU.

ORIGINAL LETTERS OF THE REIGN OF HENRY THE EIGHTH.

WITH the commencement of the year 1539, the long contemplated attack on the mitred abbays was begun, and commissioners, well tutored for their work, commenced their visitations. This step seems to have been viewed with some alarm, even by the most servile of Henry's bishops, who probably thought their turn would come next. The following letter affords a specimen of the servility of one of the

highest of these dignitaries. Edward Lee, the writer, was almoner to the King, and was sent by him on a private mission to the Pope, respecting the dissolution of Henry's marriage with Katherine. In this he succeeded so much to the satisfaction of his royal master, that on his return he was rewarded with the primacy of York; he, however, appears to have been ready on every occasion to take what seemed to be the strongest side, for on the approach of the northern rebels, he delivered up the castle of Pontefract and took the oath which they administered. Lord Darcy, the governor of the castle, was sent to London and executed, but the archbishop managed by some means to conciliate the King, and kept his see to his death.

"Feb. 1st, 1539.

"Pleasethe it your Highnes to understonde that the xxxth of Januarie I receivede youre most honorable letters, makinge mencion, that youre said Highnes had seen my letters written to Maister Maurice Barkeleye, declaringe, that lerned men shewed me, that thattayne of Christofer Joye maykethe not his prebende voyde, and that therefore he coulde not have possession of the saide prebende, wherein youre Highnes marvaileth, that I wolde take upon me the interpretacion of youre prerogative royall. Most humble prostrate I beseeche youre Highnes to take my answer in goode parte, surelie I never oodrewies (otherwise) entended, but to obeye youre royall comaundement shewed to me not onlie by youre most honorable letters, but also by mowthe; but I shewed and oftimes have written this to the said Mr. Barkeleye as truethe is, to thentent that he sholde have the more suer and stable possession of the same prebende, and therefore I advised hym to aske counsell of lerned men heerin, orells to fynde meanes that the saide Joye wolde resigne. For as I have saide and written to hym, so lerned men have saide to me. But nowe that it hath pleased your Highnes to determyne youre pleasure heerin, and to signifie the same to me by youre most honourable letters, that you doo take the prebende as voyde by thattayne, I have nowe sent to hym the collacion therof, and wolde have caused hym to have had institution and possession of the same, if he had sent anie proxie, as for lacke of skill he hath not, wiche nevertheless he shall have assonne as the proxie comethe. And as concerninge the profects of the tyme syns thattayne, forsomoeche as they belonge to youre Highnes, I wrote to hym, that w^{out} youre Highnes warraunte he coulde not have them. But nowe receiveinge comaundement from youre said Highnes, that I shall see the saide profects to bee paide to hym, I shall accordingle folowe the same. Wherefore yet agayne prostrate most humble I beseeche youre Highnes not to impute to my blasme anye thinge heerin, but uttreliche to thinke, that I shall all waies wth hole herte bee redie to accomplishe all youre comaundements, as I ame most bounde, as oure Lorde knoweth, to whose tuicion dalie and nowe I do entierliche comende youre Highnes. From Cawod, the first daye of Februarie 1539. Yo^r Highnes most bounden preest and orator,

"EDOUARDE EBOR."

(On the back) "To the King's Highnes."

The fate of Richard Whiting, the venerable abbot of Glastonbury, has been often alluded to; and that his rich possessions were the chief, if not the only cause of his execution, can scarcely be doubted by those who have read the letters of the commissioners, in which they expatiate with such admiration on the house, "so princely as we have not seen the lyke," and on the parks and neighbouring mere, "fylled with gode fyshe of dyvers sortes," and their decided opinion, that much of the jewels and plate had been secreted. The following document is valuable, inasmuch as it supplies the answers which were given by Whiting to a series of questions addressed to him by the commissioners who were sent down about the middle of September, 1536, to make inquiries respecting the abbey.

For the reader's better understanding of some of the replies, it may be remarked that one of the aims of the commissioners seems to have been to endeavour to draw in Whiting to inculpate Cardinal Pole, against whom Henry was enraged, and whose mother, the venerable Countess of Salisbury, he had just before consigned to prison. The answer to the fourth article, therefore, most probably refers to the work written about four years before by Pole, entitled,

"Pro Ecclesiastica Unitas Defensio," and which had been sent in manuscript to the King, who, alarmed at the violent attacks made in it on his personal conduct, especially in regard to his passion for Anne Bulleyn, made him splendid offers to destroy it. This was not done; but it was never printed; the King therefore feared that portions at least of it had been circulated among the clergy, who were unwilling to allow his claim to the supremacy. The allusion to "More the blynde Harper," in the answer to the sixth article, is curious; he was a servant of King Henry, and his name appears as receiving new year's gifts both in the privy purse expenses of Henry and those of his daughter Mary; he, however, seems to have been devotedly attached to "the old relygion," and to have done some service in conveying books advocating its principles among its members. As his name also occurs in the household book of Elizabeth, as receiving a reward of thirty shillings from her in 1551, we may conclude that, whatever risks he ran, he met with a more fortunate fate than most of his friends. The answer to the tenth article is characteristic of those times of slow travelling and no newspapers. It seems difficult to assign a reason for the last question, unless the commissioners hoped to entangle Whiting in some difficulty in giving his answer,—perhaps an inadvertent recognition of Katherine as queen:—

[In dorso.]—"The Examination of Richard Whitinge, Abbot of Glastonburye."

"The Answer of Rychard, Abbott of Glastonburye, to the Articles mynstred unto hym by Rychard Pollard, Thomas Moyle, and Richard Lanton, Dean of Yorke, in the behalfe of oure Sovereigne Lord the King, the xix daye of Septembre, in the xxxj yere of the Reigne of oure Sovereign Lord Kyng Henrie the viijth."

"To the Fyrst Artycle he sayeth, that divers times sythens the statute made concerning the supreme heade of the Church of Inglonde he hath mervelyd and mused in his mynd why the King shold take the same upon hym and for satisfying of hys mynd thereof he hath comonned and askyd counsell of Docter Duk and of Docter Mortemore dyvers tymes, who declared unto hym that the Kyng might take hytt lawfully. And saythe also that the fyrst tyme that he comonned and asked counsell concerning the premisses of Docter Duk was at Glaston, about ij yeres laste paste, and more. And withe Docter Mortemore about a yeyre laste paste at Glaston. Butt he saythe that he nowe thynkethe surely in his herte that the Kyng ys verie Supreme Heade of the Church of Ynglond by the lawes of God and by the ordynaunces of this Realme.

"To the Second Artycle he saythe that he had communycation of the Supremacy of the Church of Ynglond with Docter Duk and Docter Mortemore, who aunsweryd att altymes that the Kyng myght lawfully take hytt upon hym. Also he saythe, that he hath also comonned thereof dyvers tymes wythe John Fitz-James, late Chief Justice, who aunsweryd, att altymes we muste be contented to do as the Kyng will have us to do. And further saythe that he hath comonnyd dyvers tymes wythe More, the blynd Harper, concerning the same, who made aunswere, att altymes, as please God and the Kyng, so be hytt. Also, he saythe, that about Ester laste paste, one Nuport, of Brugewater, shewyd hym, att Glaston, that he herd saye that the Emperour and the Frenche Kyng intend to make warr agaynst Ingland; and then thys examine made aunswere and sayd, well, I truste thys world wyll amend, and prayd God to send us peace.

"As to the Thyrd Artycle, he saythe, that he hath herd dyvers persons saye, withe in thys fower yere, as he and they have comonned togyther dyvers tymes concernyng the supreme heade of the Church of Ingland, for the mayntenance of the Bysshop of Rome's power, these wordes following:—*dabo tibi claves celorum et quodeunque ligaveris super terram, &c.*; and dyvers other textes, which he dothe nott now remember, nor he dothe nott remember any man's name whom he herd allege those textes.

"To the Fourthe Artycle, he saythe, that he never receayvd any boke, cople, quears [quires, loose sheets], nor other escripts, for the advancement and mayntenance of the Bysshop of Rome's auctoryte sythens the statute made concerning the Supreme Heade of the Church of Ingland.

"To the Fyfte Artycle, he saythe, that an oath takyn for the supreme heade of the Church of Ing-land, for the Kyng against the Byshop of Rome, ys good and perfytt. And also saythe, that he never herd any man saye to the contrarye.

"To the Syxt Artycle, he saythe, that he never receayd any boke or other wrytyng from More the blynd Harper concernyng newes of Inde or other straunge contreyes whereby the pretended power of the Byshop of Rome's auctorytye ys advauncyd. But he saythe that More dyd use yereyly to come to hym, whereby he was very well aquaynted wythe hym; and that also More was wythe hym att hys house att London the laste Parlyament afore thys.

"To the Seventh Artycle, he saythe, he never herd ne knewe any person to have wryten or spokyn any thynge ageynste the same Devorce sythens the tyme of the same Devorce, ne had any wrytyng touchyng the same, but only one boke of arguments of the same Devorce, whyche was nowe found in hys studye by the said Commysseyoners, and was there, the same Abbott not knowyng the same.

"To the Eyght Artycle, he saythe, he receyved no message ne letter from the same Marques [Marquis] and Montague, ne from any of them, wythin the yere before there deathe, ne yett was aquaynted wythe them, but he saythe, aboute vij yeys paste, they, wythe the Erles of Rutland and Oxford, the Lord Sands, and other, came to dynner to hym to hys house in Smythfild, but he had no pryvate communication wythe them. And afore that tyme the same Marques and Sir Edward Nevyle were wythe the said Abbott at Glaston, but they talkyd of no other matters, but touchyng the matters of hys monastery, as of the foundation therof by Kyng Arture and other.

"To the Ninth Artycle, he saythe, that his oppynyon ys, that the execution of the same Traytors was juste and commendable, and that he hathe nott at any tyme improved the same to any person, ne yett spokyn thereof.

"To the Tenth Artycle, he saythe, that one Wylliam Deane, Caryar, of Welles, now ded, shewyd unto hym, about xij monthes paste, that the Cardynall Pole was made Byshop of Rome, but other newes ne tythyng he hathe herd none within two yeys nowe paste, ne before; and the oceaon of the same sayng was for that at suche tyme the same caryar brought certain stuffe to the said Abbott from London, the said Abbott demaundyd of hym what newes he herd att London, and then the same caryar shewyd hym that he herd saye that the Cardynall Pole was made Bishop of Rome; and that then he sayd no other thyng to the said caryar, but commoned of hys owne matters wyth hym.

"Itm, Examyned whether he thought the late Prynces Dowager, deceased, to be a good woman, or noe: he saythe he never knewe her but for a good woman, and so hathe alwaye taken her, and none otherwyse."

N.B.—Every page of the above is signed by the Abbott's own hand.

The following is in a different hand to the rest of the examination, and written with a different coloured ink:—

"Ric. Whytyng, Abbot of Glaston, saith, that sene the Acte made for the tenthes of the clergie to be graunted to the King, he herde of divers and sondry men, whose names and personages nowe he cannot call to remembrance, thes wordes following, or suche lyke:—'This is a sore thyng, I truste to God this world will amende.'—'I truste we shall have a better world,' saide I, 'this is for our offens.'—These wordes were spoken aboute iij yeys laste paste.

"Ric. Abbott of Glaston." But though the Abbot appears to have answered "ryghte soothleye," the commissioners seem to have determined on hys destruction. They could not bring any charge of ill conduct as abbot against him, since Layton himself declared, under his own hand, as the reader may see in Strype, that "the brethren be so streite kepte, that they cannot offend;" four days after this examination, therefore, we find in the lately published state papers of this reign, a short note signed by the three, acquainting "my lord of the pryveie seal," that "we have come to knowledge of dyvers and sundry treasons, commytted and done

† This refers to the Marquis of Exeter and Lord Montacute who were attainted and executed in February of this year.

by the abbot," and enclosing a book in which it is all set forth; and from a minute in Crumwell's own handwriting he seems to have been sent to the Tower; but that he was from the first doomed to death, is evident from another minute of the same upright minister, in his curious "Remembrances" (vide Ellis's Letters). "Item, The Abbot of Glaston to be tried at Glaston, and also to be executed ther, with his complices"! But a few weeks intervened, and then, Richard Whiting was placed on his trial at Wells, convicted, as a matter of course, and hanged the following day, within view of his own abbey. We are really glad to turn from such instances of despotism and injustice to documents of a lighter character, and with the two following letters of Lord Thomas Howard, we conclude, for the present. It is difficult to assign a date to them, but, we think, they should be placed a year or two later than the foregoing:—

"A Letter from Lord Tho^s Howard, giving an account of his services at sea.

"Plesith it your most noble Grace to understonde this mornyng at v o'clock came unto me Sabyn, whom with two other shipes I had sent to the cost of Brytayne. Sir, they have takyn xij sayles laden with salt, and are within the Needles. Sir, the Sabyn seith, that Weston sent one out of Alderney to Normandy to know tydings, and he seith that on Thursday last he left the Lewys, the ship of Leboyle, and the ship of Depe, and divers other shippes, without Honflew, in the rode; and Sir I think it shall not be possible for them to gett in this nepe tyds (neap tides). Werher with Godd's grace I will forth this daye, so that I may be with them in the mornyng by day. I pray Godd I may find them ther, and then I trust to do your Grace some service. Also, Sir, the Prisoners taken say, that all the men of war were comyng to Normandie to revitaile, and at Brioke take ther consell. And so the ship of Bordeaulx, the ship of Rochell, the ship of Rene, with xij sayles, returned to Brest, and the rest went toward Normandie. Also they say that the Quene is come to Nantx, and hath sent money to pay wages for three months. And also a ship of w, laden with powder and ordinance, to Brest. Also they say that the French Kyng hath sent Mons. de la Mote into Scotland, with money to pay the wages of v Skottish shippes, and xvij of Denmarke, and with him two shippes laden with flowre, and be gone by the west parts of Irland. Sir, other newes here be none, but shortly I trust your Grace shall have others, with Godd's grace, who send you the accomplishment of your most herts desires. Scribled in grete hast, the xvij day of May, at vj o'clock in the mornyng. Your most humble Subject and Admirall, THOMAS HOWARD."

"Extract from a Letter of Lord Thomas Howard, relative to the discipline and vuttialling the Fleet under his command.

"Yesterday, I began to take the muster; and this day and tomorrow by nine I trust to make an ende. I fere there is a grette number gone without licence; my Lord Ferrers men mustered yesterday, and wer but ccc and xj. He saith he is sewer he wanteth above c, and is as angrie therwith as ever was man, and hath delyvered me ij that were going away, whom, if I can prove that they wer departed, I shall not fayle to cause to be hanged tomorrow. Also, he sheweth me that the gayle (jail) of Hereford is full of his men, that be on ray. Werher me thynkes it were well done that the Kings Grace should command some of them to be put to execution, which shall put others in fere; and if some myght be broght hither agaynst my retorne to be put to execution here, me think it should be well done."

"Also the bere, that came hither for my Lord Lizle, is suche as no man may drynk for the most part. I have assayed the most part of it, and the tresorer and the clerk controller the rest; and as moche as may be drunken, is delyvered to the shippes, and the rest I shall send agayne to London, for Heron is servaunt, that hathe the delyvere of it here, saith that the Brewers be bounde to take as moche as is unable stuff. I know not what the Kyng payeth, but I assure your Lordshippes, moch of it is as small as peny ale, and as sowre as a crab. I dout not your Lordshippes will see the Brewers punysshed."

THE AMPHITHEATRE OF THYSDRUS, OR EL-JEMME.

The establishment of a European power on the African continent is, as one of its certain and most important consequences, leading, by many an avenue, into that inner desert which is shrouded from the rest of the world by a veil as ancient as creation, and recovering, at the same time, along its coasts, the traces of a civilization overthrown, and an empire wider than that of Charlemagne. The artist and the antiquarian and the man of letters are naturally attracted in numbers to the new field which presents materials so interesting and abundant for the labours and speculations of the one and the other. A few weeks since, we gave, from the letter of one of these travellers, some particulars of the ancient Casarea, gathered in the heart of the modern Cherchell; and the following interesting extracts from a letter written by a physician in Tunis, and published in the *Sémaphore de Marseille*, give a striking picture, amongst other things, of one of the stateliest monuments of Roman grandeur, as exhibited in the architectural constructions of that people.

"The southern portion of the territory of Carthage, which was called Byzacium, from the Byzantes, an indigenous tribe, who inhabited the fine plains that we now call the Metelit, was, under the Phœnician and Roman dominations, the richest and most fertile country of Africa. Byzacium, which comprehended also Emporia, extended from Neapolis (now Nebel), the last town of Zeugitania, to Tacapé, beyond the lesser Syrt, and inland as far as the Lake Triton. The edge of this happy province was bordered by a girdle of flourishing towns, among which may be mentioned Grassus, chosen by the Vandal kings for their habitation, and which they surrounded by those delicious gardens spoken of by Procopius.—Hadrumantum, the fortified town which, in the hands of Pompey's partizans, so long resisted the efforts of Cæsar.—Leptis-Minor, so rich by means of its commerce, and whose customs-dues formed one of the principal revenues of Carthage.—Syllectum, which saw the fugitive Hannibal embark for Syria, some time after the unfortunate battle of Zama, and, seven centuries later, Belisarius disembark, with that army which was to expel the Vandals for ever from the African soil,—and, finally, Thapsus, Cilla, Tacapé, and a host of other towns of minor importance. The inner lands were as richly cultivated as the banks, Gilma, Ferriannah, Capsa, were all opulent towns. But the finest and greatest of them all was Thydrus, with its marble palaces, its porticoes, its baths, its immense aqueducts, and its vast amphitheatre.—Thydrus, which the Roman proconsuls chose for their residence, because of its magnificence, its cloudless heaven, and the beauty of its climate.—Thydrus, which first dared to revolt against the tyranny of Maximin, the savage successor of the virtuous Alexander Severus.—Thydrus, which proclaimed old Gordian emperor, that devoted victim to the cause of the people, by whom he was adored; who, warned by a fatal presentiment, accepted, against his will and with tears, the insignia of empire, which were, ere long, to conduct him to suicide.

"Such was the continually increasing prosperity of Byzacium, up to the close of the seventh century. At that period, the Saracens, under the conduct of the Caliph Abdel-Melek-Ben-Mervan's generals, overran Africa, like a devastating torrent, destroying the towns, cutting down the trees, levelling all things with the soil, driving before them the terrified populations, and leaving ruin and desolation behind. Hadrumantum, Leptis, and Syllectum disappeared, and Byzacium became a desert. Of all these towns scarcely a trace remains. As to the very site of some of them, the learned are not agreed; and the bones of the rest are found only by digging in the earth. Thydrus was included in this great calamity; and, but for its amphitheatre, whose gigantic masses, impervious to flame, resisted the destroying fury of the barbarians, we might look in vain to-day for the place where it stood.

"This superb monument of Roman greatness, over which sixteen centuries have already rolled, is situate ten leagues from the sea, in the midst of a vast plain of olives, whose sombre verdure, like a mourning garment, seems to sympathize with its fallen splendour. The traveller who, for the first time, catches a distant view of this old and eloquent vestige of the

antique times, believes himself under the spell of some strange hallucination. Its battered front, covered with a rich and vigorous vegetation, resembles a vast crown of flowers and verdure suspended in the air. But, when he draws nearer, and can distinguish its porticoes and arcades and columns and worm-eaten sculptures—its stones gnawed by the tooth of Time, and in whose presence so many generations have passed away—the soul bows down beneath a deep emotion, which warns it that the works of men, like the men themselves, must yield at last, to a common and inevitable decay; nor can the details of this sumptuous edifice, in its garment of the past, be perused, but in a spirit of religious contemplation.

"The amphitheatre of Thysdrus is called, now, the amphitheatre of *El-Jemme*,—after the name of a poor village, of some hundred ruinous habitations, which has risen on the wreck of the once opulent city. The dirty and smoke-dried aspect of these cabins, half marble and granite, half clay and wood, exhibits a strange alliance of luxury and wretchedness, which awakens the memories of the past, and calls up before the imagination the rich, polished and educated generations that dwelt in the palaces, whose wrecks now serve to shelter a poor, an ignorant and a barbarous population. This celebrated monument has the form of an oval, whose longer diameter runs north and south. Its circumference, of 669 metres, comprises a *rez-de-chaussée*, pierced with sixty porticoes, two stories, ornamented each with sixty arcades, and the relics of a third story. Its height, from the base to the architrave above the third line of columns, is thirty metres; and allowing eight or ten metres to the story destroyed, its original elevation may be estimated at thirty-eight or forty metres. Its style, full of nobleness, is a composite of Doric and Egyptian. The pilasters of the porticoes present as many columns, projecting half way from their masses, and having their capitals ornamented with the lotus instead of the acanthus leaf. The pilasters of the arcades of the first and second stories have also their columns of the same order, but a different dimension, whose bases correspond to the capitals of the columns on the lower story, separated only by a *plate-bande*. The keys or apices of the vaults of a great many of the porticoes are adorned with the heads of animals; but some are without—which would seem to indicate that the building has never been entirely finished. The principal wall, which forms the façade, is, almost everywhere, from four to five feet in thickness, and composed of hewn stones, of uniform dimensions. The enclosure has only one principal gate, opening to the south, and leading to the vast galleries. * * * The interior presents much greater traces of devastation. All the hewn stones which formed the steps have been carried away, to construct tombs. Many portions of the mass have given way, and their ruins have filled the area beneath, to the height of from fifteen to twenty feet—so that it is impossible to measure the dimensions with exactitude, but they may be stated approximately at one hundred metres in length and sixty-six in breadth. Arrived at the centre, a view the most picturesque possible presents itself. Tufts and garlands of verdure grow capriciously in the interstices of these stones. Prodigious quantities of *Caparis spinosa*, with its long and flexible stems, hang, like the dishevelled tresses of a mourning widow, along the arcades, as if to conceal their mutilation. Their round and glossy leaves, the flowers with their four white petals and purple feelers, form a beautiful contrast of freshness and decay—of the brilliant colours and ever-graceful forms of vegetation, with the correct but cold and gloomy forms of art. In the midst of the area, where the ruins have been cleared away, there is a deep opening, wrought in masonry. Shaw was of opinion that it had served for the reception of the pillar to which the *Velarium* was attached, to cover the spectators in wet weather, or to shade them from the sun in seasons of intense heat. It is now known, however, that this opening communicates with a vast subterranean aqueduct, which extends, it is conjectured, into Media—that is, to a distance of nearly ten leagues. It may be presumed, therefore, that this amphitheatre, which was constructed for the combats of wild beasts and the games of gladiators, served also for the exhibition of the *Naumachia*.

"This monument, which, owing to the solidity of its construction, had resisted the outrages of time for many a century, began to be mutilated in the reign of Mohammed-Bey, one hundred and thirty years ago. At that period, the Arabs of the Metelit, crushed down beneath his exactions, revolted against his authority, and, after several engagements, entrenched themselves in the amphitheatre. Pursued thither, and besieged there, they entirely demolished the upper story, the stones of which they cast down on their assailants. After they were subdued, the Bey caused four arcades of the edifice, from the summit to the base, to be cut away to prevent their being again used for the same purpose. * * * Since the reign of Mohammed-Bey, the inhabitants of *El-Jemme* have not ceased to lay sacrilegious hands on this majestic and venerable monument, and to carry away its fragments, whether for their houses, their tombs, or the construction of their marabouts. Situated in a country where the atmosphere makes little ravage, the Amphitheatre, which was capable of containing 60,000 spectators, seated,—equal to that of Verona—the greatest monument of its kind, after the Coliseum—might still be preserved for many centuries; for, with the exception of the dilapidations which I have pointed out, the edifice is in good condition. But, surrounded as it is by barbarians, who, knowing neither its value nor its beauties, subject it every day to new mutilations, it is but too probable that, ere another century shall have elapsed, nothing will be left of one of the finest monuments of the architecture of the Romans. * * * The soil, covered with fragments of granite and precious marbles, amongst which the antique green and yellow are abundant, must conceal immense treasures. It is probable that excavations judiciously conducted amid these ruins, as yet untouched by the finger of research, would yield archaeological discoveries of great value."

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

WE receive communications almost daily, and from all quarters, at home and abroad, respecting the efforts made and the success obtained by different persons in the new process of engraving the Daguerrotypes pictures; but it would be absurd to weary our readers with minute particulars of the various processes, and this must serve as an apology to our correspondents for not publishing their letters. During the past week we have received further specimens from Dr. Berres, of Vienna, but though great progress is manifest, they have not the clearness of the later works of Mr. Ibbetson. We were in error, it appears, when we stated (*ante*, p. 629) that all the specimens sent to us were from Daguerrotypes taken from engravings, as those of Mr. Ibbetson are, we have been assured, from Daguerrotypes after nature. This gentleman has this week forwarded a proof plate of fossils, a specimen of great interest: for such is the minute accuracy of the Daguerrotype that every scale on a fish, and even the minutest part of an insect, can be therein beautifully displayed; and the picture once engraved, as Mr. Ibbetson has shown that it may be, it can be electrotyped, and the impressions multiplied to any extent;—thus works which, however desirable, no publisher could undertake with any chance of remuneration, from the elaborate detail of the drawings, and the consequent expense of the engravings, may be brought within the means of persons of very limited income.

Under the title of "The Dugdale Society," another association is forming in the metropolis, for the elucidation of British Family antiquity, by the publication of inedited documents, and by systematic reference to those already extant. By the collection and arrangement of the abundant materials which lie dispersed about the country in public and private receptacles, it is the purpose of the Society to establish a body of authentic records, which, independently of their value in aid of investigations into matters of descent and title, may help the solution of many an inquiry interesting to the historian or antiquary. The means by which the Society proposes to effect its objects are, the examination and classification of ancient documents relating to family antiquities—notice of the Leiger books of monasteries, priories, and other foundations, with extracts therefrom—transcripts of foundation charters—of heraldic visitations—historical particulars of parish re-

gisters—collections from ancient monumental brasses, epitaphs, and armorial ensigns—excerpts from the Harleian, Cottonian, and other MSS. in the British Museum, the Bodleian and various private libraries—extracts from the old historiographers, &c.

The rumour to which we gave currency last week, that the new Theatre in Oxford Street is likely to be opened as an Opera Buffa, is, it appears, somewhat premature;—we are informed that the house is still to be let, and will shortly be lighted up for the purpose of exhibiting the effect of its novel and magnificent decorations. It has been planned by Mr. Nelson, the architect, with especial regard to fitness for operatic performances, being of a horse-shoe shape, without any projections to obstruct the passage of sound, and the stage advancing into the body of the house, like that of Her Majesty's Theatre. The dimensions of the audience part are 65 feet by 60, and 44 feet high; the width of the proscenium is 32 feet, and the distance from the curtain to the front of the boxes 47 feet. There are four tiers of boxes, besides those of the pit and the proscenium, the upper tier being in lieu of a gallery; and the pit affords space for 472 stalls, or sittings. The dimensions of the stage are 62 feet by 40—sufficiently spacious for spectacle. The decorations—in the style of the Renaissance—have been executed by French artists, under the direction of Messrs. Craze. The union of gilding and colours with figures in relief produces an *ensemble* rich without gaudiness, the brilliant effect of which can only be shown when lighted up, which it will be by a splendid chandelier of brass and glass combined. Attached to the theatre is a spacious concert room, 80 feet long, by 45 feet wide, and 33 feet high, elegantly ornamented with coloured arabesques and figures, having a flat roof panelled with plate glass, and a moveable orchestra. The saloon, which is 54 feet long by 40 feet wide, is also applicable to the purpose of a minor concert room; and, as both rooms open into the same corridor, they would form a noble suite of apartments for fêtes, with or without a flooring over the pit. There are entrances from Oxford Street and Castle Street, and separate staircases to the concert rooms and the upper tiers of boxes,—nothing, in short, has been left undone to make it as convenient as possible.

The ceremony of laying the first stone of the monument to Sir Walter Scott, at Edinburgh, took place on Saturday last, amid an immense concourse of spectators, who crowded every eminence and projection from whence a view of the proceedings could be commanded. The Masonic and civic processions were both fully attended; and the Lord Provost, as Grand Master Mason, laid the first stone, after the usual Masonic ceremonies, on which the occasion conferred more than the usual interest.—The fêtes in honour of Rubens commenced, at Antwerp, on the same day; and had drawn together crowds from all the corners of Belgium. The streets were gay with banners and triumphal arches, and the fountains flowed with wine and beer. The Royal Society of Sciences, Arts and Letters held a public sitting on the first day, for the reading of dissertations on the works of the great master; and the Annual Exhibition of Pictures by Belgian Artists, was opened for the occasion. The festival was, however, to be a long one; and we shall hereafter probably have some account of its main business and principal features to give our readers.

Letters from North America mention the death of Mr. Maclure, the President of the Academy of Sciences at Philadelphia, to which Society he gave his magnificent scientific library. He died in Mexico, on the 22nd of March last, at the village of San Angel, in the 75th year of his age. He was the early and warm friend of Say, the American naturalist, and one of the persons who took an active part in the attempt to carry out the views of Mr. Robert Owen, at New Harmony. When in Paris, in 1819, he wrote several articles for the *Revue Encyclopédique*, which, however, were excluded by the Censors of the Press: these were subsequently translated into Spanish, and published at Madrid; and, in 1831, collected, and, with other essays, published at New Harmony under the title of 'Opinions on Various Subjects, dedicated to the Industrious Producers.'

The Paris papers announce the sudden death of M. Huyot, Member of the Institute, Professor of Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts, and this

year, as President of that branch of the Institute which has the bureau by rotation, President of the Institute. The *Arc de Triomphe*, which perpetuates the glories of the Empire, is amongst his witnesses to posterity; and the great works about to be undertaken at the Palais de Justice are after his plans, and were to have been under his direction.

Amongst the various ceremonies by which the anniversary days of the revolution of July have this year been celebrated throughout France, not the least interesting was the inauguration, at Laval, in the department of Mayenne, of a statue to the father of French surgery—a native of that town—who rose from the lowest ranks of its people to be the physician and counsellor of four successive kings, and one of the benefactors of the world, Ambroise Paré.

A model of the monument proposed to be executed to the memory of Napoleon, has been erected beneath the dome of the Invalides, under the directions of M. Marochetti, for the purpose of ascertaining its effect; from the description, it seems to combine simplicity with grandeur. It stands in the centre of the mosaic work, beneath the dome, and is composed of four parts. The first is a vast base, surrounded by columns and bas-reliefs, supporting, at its corners, four statues, one of which holds the globe, another the sceptre, a third the emblem of Justice, and the fourth the imperial crown. On this base rests another, half the height of the first, two-thirds smaller in extent, also adorned with bas-reliefs, and having, at its angles, four eagles, with outspread wings. From this second base rises a pedestal eight feet in height, likewise enriched with bas-reliefs, having in its centre the single word "Napoleon." And finally, on this pedestal, stands the colossal equestrian statue of the Emperor, wearing the imperial mantle, and having the laurel crown upon his brow. His left hand holds the bridle, and in his raised right hand is the sceptre of empire. The two bases and pedestal are forty feet in height, and the equestrian statue is fifteen: the eagles are six feet high, and the four figures on the lower base of the same proportions as the imperial figure. The colossal and pyramidal form of the monument gives the impression of being well adapted to its site beneath the vast dome of the Invalides. It will be entirely of bronze, and three years are assigned for its execution.

Letters from Naples announce the discovery, on the south-east slope of the hill of Pausilippo, of a new grotto, apparently of great depth, which is filled to two-thirds of its height (of forty-five feet) with earth, fine sand, and rubbish. The sides of the interior are composed partly of sandstone and partly of walls raised by the hand of man; and here and there on the latter are traces of ornamental sculpture. About four hundred paces from the entrance are twelve colossal marble statues, buried to the shoulders in the rubbish: the heads of which are mutilated to such an extent as to make it impossible to determine what the figures were intended to represent. Amongst the rubbish have also been found some Greek and Roman coins in copper and silver. This grotto can be entered only when it has been swept by the sea breeze blowing in that direction, the air, at other times, being so highly rarefied as to make respiration difficult, and extinguish light. The Minister of the Interior intends to propose to the King that it shall be cleared out at the expense of the government. The same letter has the following statement:—"For some days past Vesuvius has been smoking vigorously, and in a manner which infallibly announces an approaching eruption. The outer surface of the great crater is quite red; and on the southern side of the volcano, looking towards Pompeii, there are openings through which the flame is seen not more than half a foot from the exterior. From the long fissures of the new crater, formed by the last eruption, continually issue thick sulphurous vapours which forbid all approach."

Despatches have been received from M. Dumont d'Urville, dated from the harbour of Oka-Roa, in New Zealand, and stating, in general terms, the results of his proceedings since he left Hobart Town. He had visited the Auckland Islands and the Port of Otago, and made observations, which he states to be entirely new, along a hundred leagues of the south-eastern coast of New Zealand. After visiting the bay of the island, the commodore would make a direct course for France, and calculates upon arriving there four months after his letter.

A new, and promising to be a very interesting work, 'The Natural History of Society in the Barbarous and Civilized State,' by W. Cooke Taylor, Esq., L.L.D., is announced for publication in October.

"This work," we are informed, "was suggested to the author by the Archbishop of Dublin, and it has had throughout the benefit of His Grace's assistance and superintendence. The design of it is to determine, from an examination of the various forms in which society was found, what was the origin of civilization; and under what circumstances those attributes of humanity, which in one country become the foundation of social happiness, are in another perverted to the production of general misery. For this purpose the author has separately examined the principal elements by which society, under all its aspects, is held together, and traced each to its source in human nature; he has then directed attention to the development of these principles, and pointed out the circumstances by which they were perfected on the one hand, or corrupted on the other. Having thus by a rigid analysis shown what the elements and conditions of civilization are, he has tested the accuracy of his results by applying them to the history of civilization itself, as recorded in the annals of the earliest polished nations, and has thus been led to consider the principal moral causes that have contributed to the growth and to the decline of states. He has in this way applied recorded facts as a test of the accuracy of his reasoning; and if in any part he may have erred, he has supplied the reader with the means of detection."

THE THAMES TUNNEL

OPEN to the Public every day (except Sundays), from Nine in the Morning until Dark.—Admittance 1s. each. Entrance is on the Surrey side of the River, and near the Church at Rotherhithe. The Tunnel is 1130 feet in length, brilliantly lighted with gas, and the SHIELD IS NOW ADVANCED TO WITHIN 30 FEET FROM THE WHARF WALL AT WAPPING.
Company's Office, Walbrook Buildings, Walbrook, August, 1840.
By order, J. CHARLIER, Clerk to the Company.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Aug. 4.—C. Webb, Esq., in the chair.—There was a numerous and excellent display of plants, which, for beauty and fineness of growth we have not seen exceeded at any of the former meetings during the season; the Orchideæ in particular were very fine, and contained several new and curious varieties; of Ericas we also noticed several collections of finely grown plants, particularly one from Mr. Pamplin, of Islington; from Mr. Pratt, gardener to W. Harrison, Esq., F.H.S., there was a plant of *Erica Everiana*, standing nearly six feet in height, *Pimelea Hispidula*, *Gesneria splendens*, &c.; from Messrs. Colley & Hill, of Hammersmith, cut flowers of two new Pelargoniums, named Cleopatra and Ajax; from Mrs. Lawrence, F.H.S., a large collection of orchideous and greenhouse plants, among which was a fine specimen of *Peristeria elata*; from Mrs. Marryat, F.H.S., a small collection of greenhouse plants; from Mr. Mylam, gardener to S. Rucker, Esq., jun., a fine plant of *Miltonia spectabilis*, one of the most beautiful of its remarkable order; from the Hon. and Rev. W. Herbert, *Loasa Pentlandica*, a new species, nearly allied to *L. lateritia*, but a much handsomer and hardier variety, it having stood the winter in the conservatory without injury, while the latter died by its side; from Mr. Dean, gardener to J. Bateman, Esq., some fine specimens of *Stanhopea Wardii*, *Acropera Loddigesii*, and a new species of *Epidendrum* from Guatemala; from Mr. Young, of Epsom, a new and handsome species of *Gloxinia*, a deep rose-coloured variety of *G. speciosa*; from Mr. Chapman, of Vauxhall, a dish of Dutch sweetwater grapes; from Mr. Gundry, gardener to S. Paynter, Esq., several handsome queen pine-apples; from Mr. T. Moffat, gardener to the Duke of Newcastle, a collection of five different varieties of grapes; from the Society's garden there was a collection of plants and cut flowers of *Mandevilla suavelens*, *Cobea stipularis*, a very pretty new climber from Mexico, differing from *C. scandens*, having a pale yellow flower, and the foliage being more delicate, of a much brighter green, and a new species of Pelargonium, raised by Captain Neville, of Jersey, who considers it as a new and decidedly distinct species, but is evidently inferior to most of the old varieties.

The following prizes were awarded: the large

silver medal to Mrs. Lawrence, for the collection of plants; the silver Knightian medal to Mr. Young, for the new *Gloxinia*; to Mr. Pamplin, for the collection of Ericas, and to Mr. Mylam for *Miltonia spectabilis*; the silver Banksian medal to Mr. T. Moffat, for the grapes, and to Mr. Pratt, for *Erica Everiana*.

Mrs. M. A. Scaife, Mrs. Thomas Bell, J. Bailey, Esq., M.P., E. G. Flight, Esq., S. H. Godson, Esq., J. C. Gooday, Esq., J. Morley, Esq., and W. Robinson, Esq., were elected Fellows of the Society.

The following shows the highest and lowest states of the barometer and thermometer, and the amount of rain, as observed in the Society's garden between the 21st of July and the 4th of August, 1840:—

July 29, Barometer, highest	30.171
25, " lowest	29.622
Aug. 3, Thermometer, highest	87° Fah.
July 31, " lowest	45° "
Total amount of Rain 0.90 inch.	

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 13 and 27.—Dr. Buckland, President, in the chair.

A memoir was read, 'On the Classification of the Older, or Palæozoic Rocks of the North of Germany and of Belgium, as compared with formations of the same age in the British Isles,' by Prof. Sedgwick and Mr. Murchison.—In an introduction of considerable length, the authors gave an historical review of the progressive steps by which they were led to consider the stratified rocks of Devonshire and Cornwall, beneath the carboniferous system, to be coeval with the old red sandstone, and to substitute for that term the expression "Devonian System." They then state, that their leading object in visiting Belgium, the Rhinish provinces, the Hartz, &c., during 1839, was to ascertain whether, in any of those countries, there exists a group of strata with the Devonian fossils in a position intermediate between the Carboniferous and Silurian systems, and thus to establish the existence of the Devonian system, not merely by suites of fossils, but by direct evidence of natural sections. With these views, the authors endeavoured (1) to ascertain the natural descending order of the formations on the right bank of the Rhine, between the Westphalian coal-field and the chain of the Taunus; (2) to ascertain the same order in Belgium and among the ancient rocks on the left bank of the Rhine, north of the Hunsrück. They also made several traverses through the Hartz, and a long one from the Thüringerwald to the north flank of the Fichtelgebirge, in the hope of bringing into relation with their previous observations the country of Count Munster's labours. Before the authors, however, proceed to describe the detailed sections, they explain, at some length, the method of determining, by vertical and horizontal sections, the order of superposition in districts where the strata are not only much contorted, but are often in a reversed position; and they allude particularly to Prof. Dumont's use of horizontal sections in determining the intricate country around Liege.

Coal Fields of Westphalia, &c.—The authors commenced their descending sections on the right bank of the Rhine with an account of the coal-field situated to the east of Mulheim. In lithological character and fossil contents it is undistinguishable from the coal-fields of England; and it is divided into an upper, or a productive, and a lower, or an unproductive portion. The latter is partly composed of coarse grits, well exposed on the banks of the Ruhr, between Herdecke and Schwerte, and partly of yellowish or light-coloured sandstones and grits, with seams of coal and impressions of plants; and it is underlain by dark grey micaceous slates, and thin bedded, hard sandstones of great thickness, marked by many obscure impressions of small plants. The lowest division of the series contains much dark pyritous shale (alaunschiefer), and it reposes on the upper calcareous zone (mountain limestone) of Westphalia. Several sections are then described, which confirm this order of superposition; and the authors state, that the lower division of the coal-field is lithologically almost identical with the great culm-field of Devon, and that there is also an agreement in the abundance of impressions of small plants. It is the *Floetz leerer sandstein* of the German geologists, by whom it had been regarded as the highest member of the greywacke series; but it is placed by Von

Dechen, in his recently-published map of Europe, on the parallel of the millstone grit of England.

Carboniferous Limestone (Berg-Kalk) of Westphalia, Kieselachiefer, Bituminous Limestone, &c.—The authors next described the limestone which, commencing at Cromfort, near Ratingen, ranges about E.N.E. to Velbert, and is deflected thence to the valley of Regrath, north of Tonnishöhe, where it is cut off, and does not form, as represented in all German maps, a continuous band with a lower limestone, which passes through Matmann to Elberfeld. Near Cromfort, the limestone is thickly bedded, and agrees in composition, as well as in fossils, with the great scar limestone of England. In its ranges to the east, it becomes more cherty, and abounds in casts of crinoid stems, resembling the screw stones of Derbyshire. The connexion of the limestone with the coal-measure series is well exposed at Isenbugel, Velbert, &c. the upper strata passing into dark, flat-bedded, flinty strata, which is overlaid by psammite and shale, alternating with thin courses of flinty slate, and these dip beneath the lower members of the coal-field. Still farther to the east, the limestone is replaced by a large group, composed of dark flinty slate (Kieselachiefer), and dark, fetid, thin-bedded limestone, containing also Goniatites and Posidonia; and it so closely resembles the culm limestone series of Devonshire, that a geological description of one district would almost serve for that of the other. The group passes under the alum slate, and rests on dark shales, resembling those which form the base of the limestone. It may be traced by its Kieselachiefer, Posidonia schists, and sometimes by its fetid limestones, to the eastern limits of the chain of older rocks near Bleiwasche and Haddberge.

Devonian System.—The mountain limestone of Cromfort rests on dark-coloured shales, but the descending section is obscured by many overlying accumulations. In the long range between Elberfeld and Menden there are, however, many clear transverse sections, which exhibit more or less perfectly the following descending series:—1. Immediately under the lower limestone shales, reddish shales, with calcareous concretions, containing Posidonia, &c. 2. Psammites and coarse sandstones. 3. Shales and psammites of a dark colour, with occasionally thin courses of impure limestone, inclosing Goniatites, *Terebratula aspera*, and other shells, specifically different from those of the overlying formations. These groups are considered by the authors as forming a part of an inferior system, and the first and second as a passage between it and the overlying carboniferous system. They are also placed by them on a parallel with the highest beds of the Devonian series, immediately under the culm-measures, and with the yellow sandstones of Ireland, described by Mr. Griffith.

Lower Limestone of Westphalia.—This formation rises from below the third group mentioned above, and its characters and attendant phenomena, in its range from the neighbourhood of Ratingen to the confines of Hesse, were described in detail. As a whole, it so greatly resembles the limestone of South Devon, that, through large tracts of Westphalia, the two rocks could not be lithologically distinguished. The most abundant fossils are *Stromatophora polymorpha*, *S. concentrica*, *Favosites polymorpha*, *F. spongioides*, *F. gothlandica*, *F. ramosa*, *Strygocephalus Burtini*, *Terebratula aspera*, and *Buccinum spinosum*. From these facts, the authors infer, that this lower limestone of Westphalia is a true Devonian limestone, and on a parallel with the great limestone of South Devon. Detailed sections are given in the memoir, especially one from the Posidonia schists and black limestones near Schelke, through the Devonian limestones, to the lower formations exposed on the banks of the Lenne, towards Altena. In this section, the authors state that there is no ambiguity, and that the defective evidence in the sections in Devonshire is here amply supplied. The reversed sections at Paffrath are described in detail; and the complicated metalliferous deposit of Dillenburg, as well as the limestones of the Lahn, are shown to belong to the Devonian system. In descending the Lahn from Dietz to Nassau and Bad Emms, the authors had a proof that this calcareous system is underlain by Silurian rocks. The appearance of the Devonian deposits near the eastern limit of the old formations, on the right bank of the Rhine, is

accounted for by enormous undulations, repeating, in three or four great parallel troughs, the deposits which appear in their true place in Westphalia, on the northern limit of the same ancient formations.

Silurian System.—From beneath the lower Westphalia limestone rises a series of rocks, which, in the long range between Elberfeld and Iserlohn, exhibit an unequivocal descending order. The passage downwards is, in some places, effected by flagstones, with bands of shale containing thin calcareous courses; but at other localities, the shales are more abundant; and near Meschede, the group is greatly expanded, containing many quarries of roofing slate. It is classed by the authors with the shales beneath the Eifel limestones and with the Wissenbach shales, which underlie the Devonian limestone series of Dillenberg. A list of fossils is given, and the authors regard the numerous Goniatites as connecting the group with the overlying Devonian rocks; and the Trilobites and Orthocera, some of which are probably Silurian species, as a connecting link with the Silurian system. Below the preceding, is a vast group of earthy schistose beds, nearly throughout which are occasionally obscure vegetable impressions, and in the upper part are calcareous beds with innumerable impressions of fossils. In the lower part the limestones disappear, and the group passes into greywacke or greywacke slate. The country around Siegen is regarded as a dome of elevation, composed of the lower part of this series. The fossils found in these schistose beds exhibit many new forms, not found in the overlying strata—including several species of Pterinea, Homalonotus, Orthos, and Delthyris, characteristic of the Silurian system; but the authors do not attempt to separate this vast system into distinct groups, on a parallel with those of the Silurian system of England, in consequence of the absence of marked calcareous bands and some of the fossils ranging almost from the highest to the lowest beds; but they consider the great mass of the series as the equivalent of the Silurian system, and the lowest strata as probably the upper part of the Cambrian.

Older Formations on the Left Bank of the Rhine, the Hartz, and Upper Franconia.—The authors commence this division of the memoir with an account of the physical structure of the region extending from the coal-field of Belgium to the south-eastern flank of the Ardennes; next, they describe the country between the same coal-field and the limestone of the Eifel; then they discuss, at some length, the methods used by M. Dumont to determine the superposition of the natural groups; and, after proving that the geological sequence had been correctly assigned by him, they show, that the Belgian coal-field is on the same geological horizon as the coal-fields of England, and the upper limestone of M. Dumont to be true mountain limestone; but they object to the classification by that observer of the three lower divisions of the terrain anthracifere with the Ludlow rock, the Wenlock limestone, and Caradoc sandstone, and place them in the Devonian system. With respect to the lowest of these divisions, the authors show, that its descending series is better developed and more fossiliferous in the Eifel than near Liege; and they infer, that though several species of its organic remains are in common with those of the overlying Devonian system, yet that, as a group, they are distinct—first, because the carboniferous species disappear; secondly, because the *Strygocephalus Burtini*, and other shells characteristic of the lower limestone, are wanting; and, thirdly, because Silurian fossils, as the *Homalonotus Knightii*, *Calymene Blumenbachii*, &c., begin to abound. The authors further remark, that the Silurian fossils given in the Eifel lists are mostly obtained from these lower beds. There is no defined boundary between this group and the slate country of the Ardennes—the strata composing which are subdivided into an upper, middle, and lower group. From the first, the authors obtained fossils wholly referable to Silurian types, but from the second and third they did not obtain any; and, as all the groups are linked together, they place the uppermost in the Silurian system, and the two lower in the Cambrian. Some observations are then made on the construction of the slates of the Ardennes; and among the crystalline beds of the lowest group are pointed out examples of slates derived from a cleavage transverse

to the beds, and intersected by a true second cleavage plane—a rare phenomenon among the slates of England, but noticed by the authors in some rocks on the south coast of Devonshire and the north coast of Cornwall.

Formations between the Eifel and the Hundsruok, Left Bank of the Rhine, &c.—In several distinct traverses from the Eifel to the Moselle, the authors met with the same descending series, in some places highly fossiliferous, including several species of Pterinea, Delthyris, and Orthos, also casts of a large Silurian Homalonotus, and occasionally obscure impressions of plants. The sequence determined more by the symmetrical position of the great mineral masses than by direct superposition, as seen on vertical sections, gradually passes into rocks of a more decidedly slaty structure, and almost without fossils. Passing to the right bank of the Moselle, they again had, in traversing through the chain of the Hundsruok, an ascending series; and thence they concluded that the whole chain is only a portion of the great system under the Eifel limestone in an altered form. The Silurian fossils discovered among the crystalline quartzites and schists of the chain confirmed this view. Hence also the chain of the Taunus, a physical prolongation of the Hundsruok,—must be referred to a similar place in the general series: a conclusion at which the authors also arrived from an examination of the sections on the right bank of the Rhine. The authors then offer some remarks on the trappean and volcanic rocks on both banks of the Rhine; and they infer that the quartzites, chlorite slates, &c. of the Hundsruok and the Taunus, are only altered Silurian rocks. On a review of the foregoing facts they conclude, 1st, That from the carboniferous deposits of Westphalia and Belgium to the lowest fossiliferous deposits of the Rhenish provinces, there is a great and uninterrupted series of formations, which are in general accordance with the British series, though the subordinate groups do not admit of direct comparison;—2ndly, That the natural successive groups of strata, and the natural successive groups of fossils, are in general accordance, but that the boundaries of the physical and fossil groups are ill-defined, and pass into one another;—3rdly, That as there is no great mineralogical interruption, or want of conformity among the deposits, so there seems to be no want of conformity among the groups of the great paleozoic series of animal forms;—4thly, That the Devonian system is a natural system defined in the Rhenish provinces, both by its fossils and its place in a true descending section: and as the old red sandstone of Herefordshire passes, on the one hand, into the carboniferous limestone, and on the other, into the upper Silurian rocks, without interruption; so it follows that the Devonian system, as above described, is contemporaneous with, and the representative of, the old red sandstone.

Chain of the Hartz, Fichtelgebirge, &c.—The authors commence this portion of the memoir with remarks on the physical structure of the region, and the difficulties in determining the true order of superposition. The general strike of the chain, the mineral structure, and the fossils, are stated to be the same as in the preceding districts. They then describe the igneous rocks, which are said to be of four kinds:—1st, Traps in beds, or protruded masses nearly on the line of strike; 2ndly, Granite sending veins into the older slates and trappean rocks; 3rdly, Quartziferous porphyry in masses, or dykes agreeing with the elvans of Cornwall; 4thly, Trap rocks associated with rotho-teliteligende and coal measures. Silurian fossils are found in several parts of the Hartz; but the authors saw no rocks which they could compare with the central slates of the Ardennes, or the oldest slates of the Rhine. A section from Heiligenstein to the neighbourhood of Clausthal gave the following ascending series:—1. Devonian limestone with well characterized fossils. 2. Psammites and shales with Posidonia. 3. Coarse sandstone and grits surmounted by psammites and shales highly charged with plants, and mineralogically resembling the Devonian culm beds. Another section commencing at Ebingerode, on the south side of the Brocken, gave—1. Limestone and Devonian fossils; 2. Ferriferous deposits; 3. Black shale, containing Kiesel-schiefer, and, if the authors were not misinformed, Posidonia schists. From these facts they infer, that the older rocks of the Hartz are chiefly Silurian and Devonian, with traces of the

lower carboniferous. They also state, that if the great contortions and strike of the Rhenish provinces were produced contemporaneously with those of the Hartz, then the great derangement of the Hartz must have taken place after the deposit of Belgian and Westphalian coal-fields, but before the accumulation of the red conglomerates, sandstones, coal-beds and trappan masses on its eastern flank. Hence the authors infer, that none of these red conglomerates are of the date of the old red sandstone; and that the coal-beds belong to the highest part of the carboniferous series, where it passes into the new red sandstone.

Lastly, they describe a hasty traverse from the Thuringwald through the forest of Upper Franconia, and thence to the north flank of the Fichtelgebirge. On the northern limits of the section are rocks with a true slaty cleavage, which might be compared with the upper slates of the Ardennes. Farther south, the analogy was confirmed by bands of limestone with stems of encrinites; still farther south occur impressions of plants; and the whole system appears to be finally overlaid by a series of limestones and schists, some of which are very rich in fossils. The lowest of these zones of limestone rests on calcareous slates, containing a *Cardiola* of the upper Ludlow rock. In this zone the species of *Clymenia* are most abundant; *Goniatites* and *Orthoceras* are numerous in a higher zone; and the series is overlaid by a limestone containing many true carboniferous shells. From these facts, the authors are convinced that the fossiliferous region near Hoff belongs to the Devonian system, with the exception of the highest beds, which are carboniferous.

Such are the results arrived at by the authors; and they seem to be in general accordance with one another, and to bear out the classification proposed for the older British formations.

June 10.—Rev. Dr. Buckland, President, in the chair. Various communications were read.

1. A notice by the Rev. D. Williams, of an intrusive mass of trap in the mountain limestone at the western extremity of Bleadon Hill, and laid open by the excavations for the Bristol and Exeter Railway. This is the first discovery of trap in the line of the Mendip Hills; and the only igneous rock hitherto detected in Somersetshire, with the exception of the syenite of Hestercombe, north of Taunton, described by Mr. Horner, and a slaty porphyry observed by Mr. Williams, a little north of Simmons-birth, in Exmoor.

2. A Memoir descriptive of a series of coloured sections of the cuttings on the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway, by Mr. H. E. Strickland.—The author commences by regretting that geologists have not availed themselves more extensively of the opportunities afforded during the progress of the different railways, and by dwelling on the advantages which would have accrued, had a geologist been permanently attached to each line. He then states that his memoir originated in a request by Capt. Moorsom, to undertake an examination of the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway; and he expresses his great obligations to that gentleman and to Capt. J. Vetch, for the valuable assistance which they afforded him. This line was also surveyed during the first operations, and before the cuttings were commenced, by Mr. F. Burr; and the report which was made by him to the Society (*Athen.* No. 540) is very favourably noticed by Mr. Strickland. The formations intersected by the railway, are the new red sandstone with the red marl, lias, and superficial deposits; and the fullest details are given both of their composition and attendant phenomena. The new red sandstone and marl afforded no additional features deserving of particular notice. The junction beds of the red marl and lias are well displayed at Dunhamstead, and consist in descending order of lias clay with contorted beds of lias limestone—white micaceous sandstone 2 feet, lias clay 6 feet, grey marl 35 feet, red marl. A similar section is exposed at Norton. The fossils of the lowest beds of the lias are stated to differ essentially from those which occur in a higher series of strata at Bredon; and those again to be distinct from the fossils in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham. At Hewletts, east of that town, the lias near the base of the marlstone presents another series of peculiar fossils; so that, adds Mr. Strickland, in the lower lias there are at least four well

marked successions of molluscous animals ranging through a vertical height of 400 or 500 feet, and unaccompanied by any change in the mineral character of the deposit. The superficial accumulations, or detritus, received a very minute examination; and the author states, that the cuttings have fully confirmed his previous views respecting the origin of these deposits. He divides them into fluviatile and marine; and the latter, according to its origin, into local and erratic; and the last again, according to its composition, into gravel, with flints, and without flints,—the latter being destitute of mammalian remains. The marine erratic gravel without flints occurs extensively around Birmingham; at Mosely, on the line of the railway, it is upwards of 80 feet thick: the ridge of the Lickey is covered with considerable accumulations of it; and at Sugar's Brook, as well as to the east of Abbot's Wood, are other beds of this gravel. The marine erratic gravel with flints commences where the railway crosses the Avon, abounding in the neighbourhood of Bredon. It is stated to be without mammalian remains. The fluviatile gravel occurs only on the two flanks of the Avon, at Defford and Eckington: it abounds with mammalian remains, and is overlaid by ten feet of gravel, precisely similar to the marine erratic gravel of Bredon. The most abundant shells found in this deposit, are *Cyclas amnica* and *C. cornea*; and the bones are referable to *Elephas primigenius*, *Hippopotamus major*, *Bos urus*, and *Cervus giganteus*; also *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*. In endeavouring to account for the presence of bones and freshwater shells at this locality only, Mr. Strickland repeats his former explanation, namely, that after the beds of marine gravel had been deposited, and been laid dry by the elevation of the land, a large river or chain of lakes extended down the valley of the Avon; and that the marine gravel having been remodelled by the fluviatile current, was mixed up with remains of mammalia and mollusca, which tenanted its banks or its waters. Local gravel occurs abundantly at Cheltenham, and is composed of lias and oolite detritus. No terrestrial remains have been noticed in it; and it is therefore referred by Mr. Strickland to a marine origin.—Modern alluvia: The only deposits belonging to this class on the line of the railway, are the peaty accumulations on the banks of the Avon and its tributaries. The memoir was accompanied by a copy of the engineer's sections, coloured geologically by the author, who, in conclusion, expresses a hope that the time is not far distant when the Society may possess a set of coloured sections of every railway in the kingdom.

3. A letter addressed to Mr. Murchison by Capt. Lloyd, on the occurrence of Coral Rocks in the Mauritius, at a considerable distance from the shore, and at heights varying from 10 to 25 feet.—The Mauritius is belted by an enormous coral reef throughout its whole circumference, except for about ten miles along the extreme southern side, where the coast is bold, and consists of basalt. Two of the masses of coral-rock described by Capt. Lloyd, are situated in the valley of Petite Savanne, and form remarkable points or headlands, from 20 to 25 feet above the present level of the sea; and they present the same marks of abrasion as the existing barrier reef. The Observatory, Port Louis, is built also on a stratum of very hard coral rock, ten feet above the level of the sea. There are besides in several parts of the island enormous blocks of coral surrounded by the debris of oysters and other shells and corals. Appended to the letter are communications from Mr. Hill and Mr. Sherlock, agents employed by Capt. Lloyd, containing measurements of blocks near Souillac and on the Black River.

4. A notice of the mineral veins of the Sierra Almagrera, in the province of Almeria, Spain, by Mr. Lambert.—The Sierra Almagrera is exclusively composed of clay slate. The first discovered vein, the Barranco Jaroso, is rich, and has been excavated more than 200 yards in length in a direction of north to south between an hour and an hour and a half of the compass, the inclination being from 65° to 70° east. It commenced with half a yard at the surface, and has increased to three yards, at a depth of forty yards. Its mineral contents are arranged in parallel divisions and consist of different varieties of galena, carbonate of lead, argillaceous iron ore, carbonate of iron, carbonate of copper, sulphate of

barytes and gypsum. Old workings, supposed to have been conducted by the Romans, occur in great numbers principally at the mouths of the ravines. Upon the edges of the Sierra repose a tertiary formation, constituting the bed of the river Almanzora, and extending to the Sierras Cabrera, Alhamilla, and Filabres. The upper portion consists of an arenaceous conglomerate, alternating with marls, gypseous clays, and sand, and contains numerous organic remains. The formation is stated to have been greatly disturbed by trap rocks.

5. Notice on the Sierra de Gador and its Lead Mines, by Mr. Lambert.—The Sierra de Gador, well known for its rich lead mines, is situated between the Sierra Nevada and the Mediterranean, extending nearly forty miles from west to east, and varying in breadth from five to ten miles. Its highest point is upwards of 6,000 feet above the level of the sea. The southern face is precipitous, and has at its base a plain composed of tertiary rocks. The western flank is also steep, but the northern rises more gently from the Almeria river, which separates it from the Nevada chain. The principal mass of the Sierra is composed of limestone, which rests on clay slate, and is overlaid by calcareous conglomerates. The limestone is generally traversed by veins of calcareous and fluor spar, frequently so disposed as to resemble the stripes on the skin of a zebra. It is also sometimes magnetic, on account of disseminated magnetic iron. The prevailing strike of the beds is from east to west, but the strata are frequently much disturbed, and dip in opposite directions. Mr. Lambert considers the limestone to belong to the most inferior of the transition series, because its stratification is conformable to that of the old rocks constituting the nucleus of the Sierra Nevada, and because no organic remains have been yet discovered in it. At the eastern extremity, the limestone is overlaid by beds of gypsum containing masses and strings of native sulphur. There is no doubt the mines were worked by the Romans. The ore is generally found in nests or masses of considerable size, being largest where the strata are much disturbed; also in veins and branches of limited extent, which cross each other and generally form a communication between the nests. In these cases the ore is accompanied by fluor spar. At the mine of Arnafé, on the western side of the Sierra, a vein or mineral bed occurs between two strata of limestone, conforming to them in strike and dip; and other similar instances are mentioned in the paper. Mr. Lambert is of opinion that these metallic deposits were of contemporaneous origin with the limestone, and he conceives that they are to a certain extent superficial, as there is no instance of ore having been found at a greater depth than 200 yards from the surface. Fragments of galena occur in the lower part of the open fissures, enveloped in a red earth, which also contains rounded or angular fragments of limestone; they have been also found in the alluvial detritus of the valleys and dry ravines, often in considerable quantities, and, in one instance, to an extent of more than 100,000 tons. Galena is contained in the mountain chains to the east and west of the Sierra de Gador, but in less abundance.

6. 'On the constant presence of Polished and Striated Surfaces on the Rocks which form the Beds of Glaciers in the Alps,' by Prof. Agassiz, of Neuchâtel.—The phenomena described in this paper occur not only at the lower extremity, where they are exposed by the melting of the glaciers, but wherever the subjacent rock may be examined by descending deep crevices in the ice; and they are ascribed to the abrading action of grains of quartz and other rocks moved by the glacier. That they were not produced by causes in operation anterior to the formation of the glacier, is evident from the scratches being constantly parallel to the direct movement of the ice, and sharp and fresh beneath existing glaciers, but less distinct in surfaces which have been for some time exposed to atmospheric influence. If an attempt were made to account for these scratches by the action of water, it would be necessary to imagine currents of enormous depth filling the highest Alpine valleys and descending in opposite directions from the narrow crests which lie between them. In the upper part of the valley of the Visch a rapid torrent runs beneath a glacier, corroding the bottom of the valley and polishing the

sides of its bed; but the polish is of a different description from that assigned to the action of the ice, and the detritus associated with it. The sides of the valleys adjacent to the actual glaciers are often polished and scratched at great heights above the ice, in a manner identical with the surface beneath it, and different from the polish of the bed of the torrent. The paper was accompanied by a series of lithographic sketches, illustrative of the phenomena described by the author.

7. 'On the Occurrence of a Bed of Lignite near Messina,' by Dr. R. Calvert.—This bed of lignite occurs up a Fiumera, to the left of Fort Gonzago, and about a quarter of a mile from Messina. It was applied by the English troops during their occupation of Sicily, to culinary purposes, and the cavalry used it in their forges. The bed was about a yard thick.

8. A letter from Mr. Greaves on the discovery of bones of fishes, birds, and mammalia in a limestone cliff at Eel Point, in Caldey Island, and eighty feet above the sea.

9. A letter from Mr. W. J. Hamilton, on the occurrence of rounded fragments of rock crystal in the Hastings sands near Tunbridge Wells, and calling attention to the inquiry whence the fragments were probably derived.

10. A letter addressed to Dr. Fitton, by M. Roemer, of Hildesheim, on the formations between the chalk and the Portland beds, in the north of Germany. Chalk with *Flints* exactly agreeing with the chalk of England occurs only in the Isle of Rugen, where it also assumes the character of a white limestone with numerous layers of flint and the same fossils. M. Roemer considers it to be of the age of the Maestricht beds, although generally believed to be younger. In the north of Germany are also very thick deposits of sandstone and sandy marls, corresponding to the upper subdivision of the chalk. Characteristic fossils *Pagurus Faujasii*, *Belemnites mucronatus*, and small corals. No Ammonites have been noticed. Localities, Gehrdn, near Hanover, Goslar, Quedelberg, Halberstadt. Chalk without *Flints*, agreeing externally with that of England, occurs at Peina and Luneburg; but it is replaced by sandy marls and sandstones near Laeburg, Lemförde, and Dulmen. It contains *Belemnites mucronatus*, many *Scepia*, some species of Ammonites, &c. Chalk-marl (Planer Kalk) is extensively exhibited, and has everywhere the same characters as in England. It contains no *Belemnites mucronatus*, but *Ammonites varians*, *A. Mantelli*, *Turritiles costatus*, *T. undulatus*, *Plicatula inflata*, &c. The Upper Greensand occurs only near Dresden, and near Worl, in Westphalia. Its fossils are *Ammonites fulcatus*, *Terebratula bicipitata*, *Ostrea carinata*, &c. The Gault has not been clearly detected, but M. Roemer believes that a marl between Hanover and Hildesheim, and the blue clay near Otterbergen, may represent it. The Lower Greensand occurs in Saxony, near Celfeld, near Bilefeld, near Nattern, in Westphalia, and near Aix-la-Chapelle. Its fossils are not very numerous. *Hilsconglomerate*.—This formation, first described by M. Roemer, consists of a yellowish or brownish marl containing quartz, schist, oxide of iron, and in some localities rich iron ore. It is found near Brunswick, Goslar, and near Essen on the Ruhr. Its fossils are very numerous, and agree in part with those of the lower green sand of England. M. Roemer suggests that it may be the Neocomien of the French geologists. *Hilsclay*.—This deposit, also first distinguished as a separate formation by M. Roemer, is a pure blue clay, 100 feet thick; and it is believed by him to be the equivalent of the Spenon clay, of Yorkshire, as it contains many of the fossils of that bed described by Mr. Phillips. It occurs near Hildesheim, near Celfeld, at the foot of the Deister, near Hanover, and near Henndorf. The Weald Clay of the north of Germany seldom includes strata of limestone and sandstone. Its fossils, without exception, agree with those of England. *Hastings Sandstone*.—This formation contains in the upper part beds of coal from one to three feet thick. The total depth of the deposit is from 500 to 800 feet. It has yielded every species of fossils enumerated by Dr. Fitton in his paper on the strata below the chalk. The Purbeck beds consist of shelly limestones alternating with sandstones and concretions of grit. M. Roemer has noticed two

"dirt beds," but has not yet found any remains of Cycadeoiden. The shells are partly freshwater, partly marine. The Wealden group has been observed near Helmstedt, and M. Roemer hoped it would be laid open near Hildesheim. Farther westward it ranges from Hanover, by Minden, to Iburg and Rheine, near Munster, yielding almost everywhere very good coal.

11. A letter to Dr. Fitton from Mr. Mackeson, of Hythe, on the discovery near the bottom of the green sand in the vicinity of that town of portions of a large saurian, supposed to be an iguanodon. These remains were first noticed by Mr. Mackeson in May, since which he has superintended the development of other parts of the animal, and he has carefully preserved every fragment, for the purpose of their true nature being rigidly determined.

This being the last meeting of the session, the Society adjourned at its close to the 4th of November.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

'On reclaiming Land from the Sea, with Plans illustrative of Works in Loughs Swilly and Foyle.' By J. W. Bazalgette.—Lough Foyle communicates with the Irish Channel by a narrow inlet, above which it spreads over a wide track of land, and then, suddenly contracting, joins the river Foyle about four and a half miles below Londonderry, up to which city it is navigable for vessels of 500 or 600 tons burden. The rush of the tide through such a small inlet has carried with it great quantities of alluvial soil, which it has gradually deposited on the side of the lough, and thus formed a bank which extends four or five miles in length, and is only covered by the tide at high water. In order to reclaim this tract of valuable land, of about 25,000 acres, it is proposed to construct, somewhat below low water, an embankment or sea wall, of about fourteen miles in length. The tide never rises here above twelve feet, nor is there ever any swell in the lough to endanger the structure. Lough Swilly is wider at the mouth which opens into the Western Ocean, and is consequently more subject to the effect of wind, than Lough Foyle. The highest tides rise about 18 feet. Several embankments are proposed, which will reclaim altogether about 200 acres of land; a tract already reclaimed, which is considered to be of the best quality in the country, lets at 5s. per acre. The slopes of the faces of the embankments vary on the sea face from three or four to one, and two to one on the land side. Each has a culvert 3 feet diameter, with sluices and flood-gates, founded upon piling with tie beams, and the spaces filled with concrete, the whole being covered with planking. The gates are at the lowest level of spring tides, so as to allow of the greatest degree of drainage. The wing walls of squared rubble stone stretching on either side of the gates are founded also on a bed of concrete, 4 feet wide by 2 feet deep. These gates are to be used either to keep back the fresh water for the purposes of irrigation, or for scouring away the silt which would accumulate externally in front of them. A bed of puddle, 4 feet 6 inches wide at the bottom and 3 feet wide on the top, extends longitudinally throughout the embankments. The land water is carried away by a series of catchwater drains, which extend around the reclaimed lands at the level of high water, having sufficient fall to secure its drainage through the sluices. These drains are puddled, and have their internal faces covered with sods, at an inclination of two to one.

'On the Use of Mica, as a Substitute for Glass, in the Windows of Workshops.' By Joseph Glynn.—In the windows of the workshops at the Buttery Iron Works so much glass was broken by the chippings of iron, that a substitute was sought which should resist a moderate blow, and yet be translucent. A quantity of sheets of mica were procured from Calcutta, which, when fixed into the cast-iron window frames, were found to resist the blow of a chipping of iron driven off by the chisel with such force as would have shivered a pane of glass. Mica possesses both toughness and elasticity, and when a piece of iron does penetrate it, merely a hole is made large enough to allow the piece to pass, while the other parts remain uninjured. It is not quite so transparent as glass, but it is not so much less so as to be objection-

able; but this circumstance is not important at Buttery, as, in consequence of the quantity of fluoric acid gas evolved from the fluete of lime used as a flux in the blast furnaces, the glass in the windows is speedily acted upon, and assumes the appearance of being ground. Mica is a little more expensive than common glass; but, as its duration promises to be much longer, it must be more economical; and if an extensive use of it could be induced, a more ready supply would be obtained—probably from Pennsylvania or from Russia, where it is commonly used for windows in farm-houses, and also on board ships of war, as it is less liable to be fractured by the concussion of the air during the discharge of heavy artillery. It can be procured of almost any dimensions necessary for ordinary purposes, as it has been found in Russia in masses of nearly three feet diameter. It is susceptible of very minute subdivision, as, according to Hally, it may be divided into plates no thicker than one three-hundred-thousandth part of an inch.

'On a Specimen of White Cedar from Bathurst, New Brunswick,' sent by Mr. Churchill.—The specimen exhibited was of the dimensions calculated for a railway sleeper, for which use it was proposed to introduce this timber, as it is stated to possess, in a very superior degree, the quality of durability in situations calculated to try its properties. It can be imported at about 3s. 9d. to 4s. per sleeper.

Mr. Hawkins observed, that he knew that species of timber well, having seen it extensively employed in the United States. The wood is light, soft, fine grained, and easily wrought. It resists alternations of dryness and moisture better than any other wood; and on this account is extensively used for shingles for roofing. These shingles will last from thirty to forty years. It is in great demand for household utensils, so much so that a distinct class of coopers are called cedar coopers.—Mr. Brunel did not think it was a cheap or a strong wood. He had used it chiefly for covering locomotive boilers, as it resisted heat better than any other wood.—Mr. Joseph Horne objected to its use for sleepers on account of its tendency to split so easily; but he had found it resist wet perfectly.

'Account of a series of Experiments on Locomotive Engines, more particularly on the 'England,' the 'Columbia,' and the 'Atlantic,' manufactured by Mr. Norris, of Philadelphia.' By Capt. Moorsom.—The engines of which the author more especially treats were constructed by Mr. Norris, of Philadelphia, and sent by him to England, under an agreement to supply "locomotive engines of a higher power, greater durability, and less weight," than could be obtained in this country. They were to be subjected to fifteen trials within thirty days, and prove their capability of drawing "up a gradient of 1 in 330, a load of 100 tons gross weight at the speed of 20 miles per hour; and up a gradient of 1 in 180, a load of 100 tons gross weight at the speed of 14 miles per hour." The pressure of the steam in the boiler was stipulated by the Grand Junction Company (on whose railway the trials were made) not to exceed 60 lb. per square inch. The construction of these engines is very simple, and the work plain. The boiler is horizontal, and contains 78 copper tubes, 2 inches diameter and 8 feet long each, with an iron fire-box. The cylinders, 10½ inches diameter, are slightly inclined downwards, and so placed that the piston rods work outside the wheels, thus avoiding the necessity of cranked axles. The frame is supported by 6 wheels: the two driving wheels, of 4 feet diameter, are placed close before the fire-box; the other four wheels, of 30 inches diameter, are attached to a truck, which carries the front end of the boiler, and is connected with the frame by a centre-pin, on which it turns freely, allowing the truck to accommodate itself to the exterior rail of the curve, and with the assistance of the cone of the wheels to pass round with very little stress upon the rails.

	Tons.	cwt.
The weight of the engine, with the boiler and fire-box full, was.....	9	11½
That of the tender, with 21 cwt. of coke and 520 gallons of water, was.....	6	4½
Total weight.....	15	15½
The engine, when empty, weighed.....	8	tons.

The trials were made on the Grand Junction Railway in April and May, 1839, and were continued

over the whole distance from Birmingham to Liverpool, except when stopping short at Warrington to take loads; and occasionally making double trips, so as to travel the total distance of 156 miles per day. Attention was more particularly paid to the speed when ascending the gradients, which rise at the rate of 1 in 330 (16 feet in a mile) or 1 in 177 (29 feet 4 inches per mile), and as the engines approached these gradients frequently either at an accelerated or a diminished speed, the observations were made at the points most remote from the cause of variation from uniform velocity. Some of the trials were made with such a number of empty waggons to make up the weight, that the train attained a length of nearly an eighth of a mile; this required some allowance, which was estimated at from one-eighth to one-ninth in addition to the actual weight of the empty waggons. The extreme limit of working pressure of the steam in the boiler was 62 lb. per square inch, except for a few minutes on one occasion, when it rose to 64 lb. The usual pressure for the locomotive engine boilers on railways now generally at work is from 50 to 75 lb. per square inch. An analysis of the tabulated results of the several trips give these general results:—That on a plane of 1 in 330, with a load varying from 100 to 120 tons, the speed varied from 13½ miles to 22½ miles per hour; that on a plane of 1 in 177, with a load of 100 tons, the speed varied from 9½ miles to 13½ miles per hour. From the analysis it appears, that allowing in five of the trials the stipulated amount of performance to have been made, and that in five other trials a doubt may exist, still in the remaining eleven trials the exact amount of duty demanded was not performed. A comparison of the journeys up from Liverpool to Birmingham, with those down from Birmingham to Liverpool, gives rather a singular result. The aggregate rise of the gradients from Liverpool to Birmingham is about 620 feet, that from Birmingham to Liverpool is about 380 feet (exclusive in both cases of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway); the difference, therefore, up to Birmingham is about 240 feet. In 7 journeys of 695 miles up to Birmingham, the engine conveyed 682 tons gross, evaporated 12,705 gallons of water, and consumed 177 sacks of coke (1½ cwt. each). In 7 journeys of 696 miles down from Birmingham, the same engine conveyed 629 tons gross, evaporated 12,379 gallons of water, and consumed 177 sacks of coke. It would thus appear that the consumption of fuel was the same in both cases, and the only difference was the evaporation of 326 gallons of water more in the journey up than in the journey down, conveying nearly the same load both ways. The author remarks, that in the early stage of his observations on the engine, he would have inferred that, from the mode of construction, it was not calculated for high speeds, such as are required for the mail trains; yet that he has often seen it travel with apparent ease at the speed of 30 miles per hour; and he thinks that, with some slight modification of the working parts, engines of this construction may be made to do any duty now required from locomotive engines; and, from the small quantity of repair required during the trials (only renewing the fire-bars, which were originally intended for burning wood, and putting nine stronger ferules in the tubes), he is of opinion, that the present construction is exceedingly well calculated for heavy loads—that it may be modified for attaining high speeds—and will prove a durable and economical machine.

Capt. Moorsom, in reply to some questions from several members, stated, that although the American locomotive engines had not strictly complied with the stipulated conditions, yet he considered them good, serviceable engines, and it was the intention of the directors of the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway Company to have ten of them on their line. The price of the engine complete, including the import duty of 20 per cent., is from 1500l. to 1600l.

'Description of a Dynamometer, or an Instrument for measuring the Friction on Roads, Railways, Canals, &c.' By Henry Carr.—The object of Mr. Carr's modification of the dynamometer is to obviate the irregularity of the common indicator arm, caused by the jerking motion of the tractive power or any inequality of resistance. The instrument consists of a cylinder half filled with mercury, and containing a piston connected with the spring of the dynamometer, so as to be lowered or raised as the tractive power is

increased or diminished. Two tubes of glass, connected by a passage with a regulating valve, stand in front of the cylinder, one of them communicating freely with it, and in this tube the mercury is raised or lowered proportionally to the power applied; while in the other, an average of the variations is obtained as the facility of communication between the tubes is increased or diminished by the opening or closing of the stop-valve. The instrument must be graduated by actual experiment, and the results of the average power may be read off from the scales placed behind the tubes. The paper is illustrated by a detailed drawing of the machine.

'An Account of a proposed Suspension Bridge over the Haslar Lake at Portsmouth.' By Andrew Burn, Jun.—The usual calculation for the maximum load on each superficial foot of the platforms of suspension bridges is 70 lb.; but, as in the event of a crowd of persons assembling the pressure may increase to nearly 100 lb. per foot, and by the passage of soldiers marching in regular time the strain may be greatly augmented, the projector assumed 200 lb. per superficial foot as the amount of load to which the platform might be subjected. The peculiar feature of this bridge is the substitution of cast-iron chains for the wrought-iron ones generally used. This deviation from the usual practice is adopted as a measure of economy, and with a view of increasing their stability and durability, cast iron being much less influenced by atmospheric action than wrought iron. Cast-iron beams, when well proportioned, will bear a very considerable tensile strain. As these chains would be proved beyond the weight they are intended to bear, no doubt is entertained by the author of their security. The platform, which is formed of transverse iron girders carrying cast-iron plates ¾ of an inch thick, with dovetails falling into holes cast in the girders, is suspended by wrought-iron rods 1½ inch square from two lines of chain only, as the strain is more easily brought to bear on them than on a greater number of chains. They are trussed laterally to prevent oscillation, and the balustrade is so constructed as to prevent the undulation so prejudicial to suspension bridges generally. To insure a perfect bearing, each pair of links of the chains are in manufacturing cramped together, and the holes bored out to receive the pins which are turned to fit them accurately; they are of a larger size than usual, being 4 inches diameter, and a less number are employed. The piers on which the chains pass are of cast iron, 33 feet high above the level of the roadway.

	Feet.
The extreme length of the bridge is	632
The breadth of the roadway	17½
The clear waterway between the piers	300
The clear headway of the platform above the high water line	18½
Ditto ditto above low water line	33

The tension on the chains is calculated as equal to 991,413 tons. To sustain this tension, the section of the chains is 256 square inches, and taking 7 tons per square inch as the elastic limit of cast iron, the resistance of the chains will equal 1792 tons, leaving a surplus of 800.6 tons after the calculated strain has been deducted from the real strength of the chains. Three elaborate detailed drawings accompany this paper.

Mr. Smith, of Deenston, explained a new system of Lockage for Canals proposed by him, a model of which he presented to the Institution.—To avoid the present expensive construction of locks and their waste of water, the author proposes to divide the canal into a series of basins, the water levels of which should be from 12 to 18 inches above each other. The extremity of each basin is so contracted as to permit only the free passage of a boat; in this is placed a single gate, hinged to a sill across the bottom, the head pointing at a given angle against the stream, and the lateral faces pressing against rabbets in the masonry. The gate is to be constructed of buoyant materials, or made hollow so as to float and be held up by the pressure of the water in the higher level; on the top is a roller to facilitate the passage of the boats. When a boat is required to pass from a higher to a lower level, the bow end, which must be armed with an inclined projection, depresses the gate as much as the depth of the immersion of the boat, and as much water escapes as can pass between its sides and the walls of the contracted part of the basin. The same action takes place in ascending,

except that a certain amount of power must be expended to enable the boat to surmount the difference of level between the basins. The quantity of water wasted by each boat would be in proportion to its immersion and the speed at which it passed over the gate. In case of different sized boats passing along the same canal, it is proposed to have a small gate forming part of the main gate, so as to avoid the loss of water which would ensue from the whole width being open for the passage of a small boat.

'Description of an Apparatus for preventing the Explosion of Steam Boilers.' By Robert M'Ewen.—The apparatus is constructed on the principle that steam, in proportion to its density, will support a column of water, or mercury, of a given height, and that any fluid will find the same level in two or more vessels, provided there be a free communication between them. It may be called a mercurial safety valve, and consists of a cylinder, within which are two cups, with two pipes dipping into them of a length proportioned to the pressure of the steam; these pipes are connected at the top with two valves on one spindle, so arranged, as that when one is open the other must be closed. On the top is a waste steam pipe open to the atmosphere. One pipe being filled with mercury, and the valve connected with it being open, the mercury remains stationary until the pressure of the steam exceeds its proper point. It will then be blown out and fall into the empty cup, allowing the steam to escape by the waste pipe, and giving warning to the engineer by its noise. When the pressure is again reduced to its proper point the valve is reversed, and the mercury will, on the next occasion of an increase of pressure, be blown back again, still giving warning on either side.

'On setting out Railway Curves.' By Charles Bourns.—Mr. Bourns having been engaged in setting out the Taff Vale Railway through a country presenting circumstances of more than ordinary difficulty, which rendered it necessary to vary the radii and the flexure of the curves frequently, his attention was particularly directed to the subject; and he has treated it in this paper, demonstrating the several cases geometrically, and generally in a plain and satisfactory manner. He calls attention to the inaccuracy of applying a square to the setting out of segmental curves, particularly those of short radii, and recommends an offset staff as theoretically correct and practically much more convenient. The general rule to find the offset is—"Divide the number of inches in the chain used by the number of such chains in the radius of the required curve, the quotient is the offset in inches." The paper is accompanied by a table of offsets for curves of different radii; which the author found extremely convenient for use in the field.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Several Entomological works from the Royal Society of Brussels, M. Dufour, Mr. Schomburgk, and others, together with a collection of Lepidopterous insects, from the Neigherrie mountains, from Mr. Robertson, have been presented. Prof. Owen exhibited a Dipterous larva, discharged from the urinary bladder of a patient, stating, that although larvae had been repeatedly discharged from the intestines of the human subject, none had hitherto been observed under such circumstances as the present. Mr. Newport stated that Dr. Carter had communicated to him the case of the larva of an *Cestrus* having been discharged from the frontal sinus of a female, and he had obtained a *Geophilus* which had been vomited by a female. Mr. Westwood exhibited a considerable number of insects, monstrosities, and distortions, and stated his intention of illustrating the productions. Mr. Waterhouse also exhibited a monstrous *Prionus* from Brazil, and Mr. Saunders the nest of a *Pelopaeus spirifex* from Albania.

May.—Mr. Newport exhibited his specimen of *Geophilus* mentioned above, and likewise a specimen of the pupa of *Sphinx ligustri*, which he had purposely rendered monstrous, by preventing the development of its tongue-case. Mr. Yarrell exhibited the larvae of *Tipula oleracea*, which were then destroying the grass in the squares of London; and Mr. Hope stated that lime-water and water from the gas manufactories would be serviceable in the destruction of the insects. Mr. Hope also exhibited a new species of the walking leaf insect, from the Neigherries, brought home by Mr. Robertson. Mr.

Shuckard read some extracts from his monograph on the Dorylidae, and Mr. Westwood some notes on the peculiarities of the Entomological productions of Africa; after which, Mr. Hope entered into a detail of his views relative to the Geographical distribution of insects.

June.—A new and very distinct British genus of Carabidae, by Mr. S. Stevens; the nest of an Oiketicus, from the East Indies, by Mr. Saunders, and a mass of the cocoons of a small Ichneumon, by Mr. Ingpen. Mr. Smith exhibited a series of species of the difficult genus *Andrena*. Mr. Westwood exhibited a specimen of *Myrmecocystus Mexicanus*, a Mexican ant, some of the neuters of which have the body immensely swollen, and are stated never to leave the nest, but there secrete a kind of honey, whilst the common neuters were of the ordinary form; accompanying this exhibition with observations on the diversity which takes place in the development of the females and neuters amongst the Hymenopterous insects, such as the different kinds of neuter hive bees described by Huber, &c.

July.—Mr. Hope exhibited a collection of Coleoptera from Mexico, and Mr. Raddon some insects from the African Gold Coast, as well as two new British species of moths. Mr. Marshall mentioned a remarkable peculiarity observed by Mr. Doubleday, in the *Gesia bombyliiformis*, which, on first emerging from the pupa, has the transparent part of its wings entirely clothed with scales. A paper was read by Mr. Westwood, containing suggestions for making collections of insects abroad, with reference to their physiological and economical peculiarities.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

TUES. Zoological Society (*Scien. Mus.*) . . . 8 p. Eight, P.M.
{ Botanic Society Eight.

FINE ARTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Evening Sketches, by A. E. Chalon, J. J. Chalon, Joseph Cristall, C. R. Leslie, J. Partridge, C. Stanfield, S. J. Stump, T. Uwins.—We should hazard little, if we declared that the artists of England here displayed in the undress of improvisation thought, were seen to more advantage than in the series of carefully-meditated, highly-finished, and exquisitely-engraved designs, on which it was our duty to comment last week; and yet these 'Evening Sketches' are no marvels of inventive genius, or skill of hand. Readiness in composition in Mr. Cristall's group of the daughters of Minus (we are not answerable for the spelling), is neutralized by glaring imperfections in drawing: Mr. J. J. Chalon's 'Halt—a Salvator-like study of trees and rocks—is more correct in its woodland anatomy. It is clever, too, in the management of the light; but, to become a pleasing landscape, more air should have been let in:—a vista and a horizon may be implied by a few magical lines and openings, without the wild seclusion of a close scene being thereby destroyed. Mr. A. Chalon's notion of 'Happy Moments' is of a little girl, who has laid aside a book and fruit-basket to play with a dog on a terrace; and, that the child's felicity may be all the greater, she is thrust into the stiff Ranelagh sacre and mantle of her great grandmother. Is there to be no end of this mistake of "furniture" for feeling? The design, however, is pretty. So, too, is Mr. Stump's 'Enchanted Island' a Claude-like scene,—when the figure of the Orlando, who listens to a floating bevy of lute-bearing Spirits of air, is covered: his figure is disproportionately large; as, also, is the clump of rich trees at the foot of which he reclines; but there is elegance and romance in the design. Mr. Leslie has chosen from 'Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme' that point of time at which Nicole fences with George Dandin. His sketch is capital: there is a touch of real humour in the anxiety with which the serving-woman—her petticoats tucked up for a fencing or a scrubbing-match—grasps in one hand the weapon, in the other her broom. Excellent, too, is Mr. Stanfield's 'Perilous Situation'—a wreck on a rocky shore. Mr. Uwins's 'Expectation' is a graceful Contadina reclining on a rock, most curiously made up for the occasion:—it was wrong, with such an obvious care for the Expectant's accommodation, not also to have allowed her a three-legged stone for a footstool. The last, and, we must add,

the worst drawn of the series, is Mr. Partridge's 'Reminiscence of Italy'—a mother and child. As a whole, indeed, these 'Evening Sketches' have disappointed us.

Thanks to lithography, we are, once a month at least, pleasantly reminded of those distant wonders of the world which so few of us may hope to visit. The second number of the *Oriental Portfolio* unfolds to us the architectural remains of Delhi: the 'Tomb of Humayoon's Vizier,' the 'Mausoleum of Lufdur Jung,' and the 'Chouk,' a street scene,—with other subjects. The consistent richness and picturesque splendour of the Eastern builders have not often been more strikingly presented to us. Some of the details are of exquisite beauty, and of value as hints to an architect: let us instance the pierced battlement in the foreground of the last design specified. The designs have been carefully and spiritedly lithographed, and the illustrative letter-press is clear and sufficient. A great advance, by the way, has been made in this department of our picture-books, which was formerly as bald common-place as newspaper enthusiasm, and as incorrect as newspaper anecdote. Of this, a striking instance lies on our table. The literary sketches of Mr. H. Noel Humphreys, which accompany Mr. W. B. Cooke's *Views in Rome*, now completed, are so much the pleasanter part of the work (no offence to the artist's share of it, which is cleverly sustained to the last), as to have deserved a separate notice, and to have received the same, had we not been so recently taking notes upon Herr von Raumer's and Miss Taylor's Italian Journals.

One solitary portrait is before us—Mrs. Carpenter's *Bishop of Chester*, engraved by Cousins. The head has character, the expression of the features a mingled intellect and benevolence, which gave the clever lady a better subject than usual:—the ecclesiastical robe, too, how seasonable it must be to an eye weary of the unpicturesque clothing of every-day sitters! Mrs. Carpenter has availed herself of these advantages, and Mr. Cousins done his part, as usual, carefully and to good purpose.

Two new works are commenced—one elementary, the other antiquarian. The *Original Studies of Animals*, by Mr. T. Landseer, however, are inferior to other publications of the kind of which the world is possessed. Let us hope they will improve in future numbers: the first part only has appeared. Here, too, we have the first part of the Messrs. Hollis's *Monumental Effigies of Great Britain*, which promises, after its kind, to be a much better work. The effigies have been most attentively drawn; and the manner of their presentment, delicately-finished etchings, suits the subjects well. It is enough to announce, for the benefit of those interested in the matter, *Lord Charles Beauclerk's Sketches of the Military Operations in Canada*.

We have before us in the *Tudor Library*, Part I, sundry specimens of a new art of engraving, called Acrography—how produced, "deponent saith not." One is a medallion portrait of Addison, reminding us of the works of Mr. Bate's Analytograph, though without the delicate and clear finish of those engravings. The others are somewhat coarse and clouded imitations of the style of wood-cutting adopted in the modern French book designs. At present, whatever may be the facilities of the process, its results stand greatly in need of being perfected.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

THE close of the musical season has thrown the seekers of excitement, who depend on public entertainment for their evening's amusement, upon theatrical performances; and the loungers at the *Concerts d'Eté* may drop in for a laugh at the Haymarket, the Lyceum, and the Strand Theatre, at either of which they will be gratified according to their tastes. The Haymarket furnishes two sorts of merriment, vulgar and intellectual: the lovers of buffoonery may find more to laugh at in the grimaces of Mr. David Rees, a low comedian from Dublin, than we can, having no relish for that species of practical drollery. Mr. Rees imitates all that is imitable in the *Paul Pry* of Liston, and the *Crack* of Munden, which consists of the worst parts of those richly comic performances. He is extravagantly grotesque, too, as *Galochar*, in a version by Mr. Selby of a French vaudeville, called 'The King's Gardener';

but he is the same in all, and does not appear to possess the art of personation. Those who prefer mirth of an intellectual kind will enjoy a rare treat in Mrs. Inchbald's comedy 'To Marry or Not to Marry,' in which Mr. Macready plays *Sir Ossin Morland*, the cold, reserved, and imperious recluse, who is cured of his morbid fondness for a solitary life, and especially his aversion to the society of women, by accidentally meeting with an artless girl, whose simple-mindedness and incapability of falsehood, coupled with personal graces, and the attraction which misfortune lends to beauty and innocence in the eyes of a generous man, inspire him with love—a passion that he had been used to deride as a weakness. This flower of Nature's own culture is charmingly personated by Miss P. Horton, who looks as guileless as it is possible for innocence to appear in a stage form; and Mr. Macready took the audience by surprise with the humorous vein that he infused into his austere and haughty gravity in those passages where he has to exhibit *Sir Ossin's* infirmity of temper, and the effect of the new and strange emotions of secret love in his proud and lonely bosom. The prompt replies and earnest pleading of the unsophisticated girl, who has to contend, under every disadvantage, but that of guilt, against conventionalities and worldly sense, and overcomes all difficulties by the force of native truthfulness and simplicity, produce a pleasurable delight of the highest kind—creating real heart-merriment—making the moral sense chuckle, as well as "the lungs to crow like chanticleer." If this be not wit, it is something quite as good, perhaps better; and being rare, let us "as a stranger give it welcome." We wish truth did not compel us to add, that this little gem of a drama is spoiled by a clumsy setting of the worst tinsel that the stage can furnish: the attempt at murder by *Lavensforth* and his black servant, and one or two less offensive incongruities, must be set down as errors of haste, the drama having, we believe, been originally produced on some emergency.

MISCELLANEA

New Process for making Sulphuric Acid.—M. Provostaye, of Paris, has proposed the following process:—He recommends introducing into the leaden chamber sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and the vapour of water. To understand what takes place under these circumstances, a current of sulphurous acid may be passed into a flask containing nitric acid: this should be made, by means of a bent tube, to communicate successively with a flask containing sulphuric acid, a globular vessel moistened with water, and a dry globe. The nitric acid is completely decomposed. The first flask contains pure sulphuric acid alone. Red vapours pass from the first vessel into the second; this is filled with sulphurous acid also, for it is formed of solid white crystals, in the two last experiments, as in the first. In the latter, all the sulphuric acid of the second flask exists in a solid crystallized mass, of a greenish yellow colour. The re-actions are, therefore, similar to those of the old process. In the new process, the nitric acid yields a portion of its oxygen to the sulphurous acid, in order to convert it into sulphuric acid. Hyponitric acid is thus formed, which acts like the hyponitric acid in the old process, which is formed from the binoxide of azote and oxygen of the atmosphere: that is to say, successively it yields oxygen to the sulphurous acid, and borrows it from the air; but the discharge requires the intervention of sulphuric acid and water. The water has two very distinct functions: it acts directly, by bringing into more intimate contact the sulphurous acid and hyponitric acid, and this favours the oxidation of the first by the oxygen of the second; it acts also by decomposing the white crystals immediately, and changing them into sulphuric acid and oxide of azote.

Oxalic Ether with Chlorine.—Malaguti has succeeded, by means of the action of heat (212°), direct light, and chlorine, in converting oxalic ether into a crystallized substance, in which all the hydrogen has been driven off and replaced by chlorine. Its formula is—C₂O₂, C₂Cl₂O. It is neutral and destitute of taste and smell. It melts at 338°, and congeals in rectangular plates. All fluids which have an affinity for chlorine decompose it, such as alcohol, simple and compound ethers, essential oils, &c. Among

the products of the decomposition is an oil corresponding to anhydrous oxalomic acid, containing chlorine instead of hydrogen. When ammonia is added to this oil, needleform crystals are produced which are volatile, fusible, neutral, represented by oxamethane which only contains two atoms of the hydrogen of the amide, the rest being replaced by chlorine—thence it is a compound of one atom of oxamide with one of chlorotetralic ether.

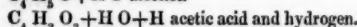
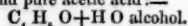
Gannal's process for Embalming.—2.68 lb. troy of dry sulphate of alumina are dissolved in .88 (or rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pint of hot water). Five or six pints of a solution made after these proportions are to be injected into all the vessels of the body to be embalmed. To prevent the attack of insects, it is proper to add 15.43 grs. of chloride of copper to every 2.68 lb. troy of sulphate of alumina, or 771 $\frac{1}{2}$ grs. of arsenic.

Elaterite, or Fossil Caoutchouc.—Pelouze has ascertained that this substance, which occurs in La Vendée, has the same composition as Indian rubber, viz., $C_8 H_8$. In this country it is accompanied by a sort of gum resin, which is sometimes red, sometimes yellow, and even greenish; transparent, insoluble in water, and corresponds in its characters with amber.

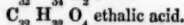
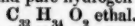
Gold in France.—Bequerel has found a considerable quantity of gold in the sand of Cantal, near Aurillac. The rock in which it occurs is mica slate. The matrix contains lead: 268 lb. troy contain about 261 grains of gold.

Artificial Preparation of Sugar.—1. Sugar similar to that of grapes, may be prepared by boiling one part of the starch of potatoes or flour, with from $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ of sulphuric acid, and four parts of water, for 36 or 40 hours, care being taken to renew the water as it evaporates. At a higher pressure and temperature the change may be effected more rapidly with a smaller quantity of acid. The excess of acid is then to be saturated with lime, the sulphate of lime separated, and the liquid concentrated by sufficient evaporation. 2. The starch of flour soon loses its gelatinous consistence, when moistened with an extract of sprouted barley; it is transformed into a liquid, and if the barley is in sufficient quantity it is changed in the course of a few hours into sugar of grapes, provided the temperature be maintained at 158° to 167°. Six parts of barley which has germinated produce 25 parts of sugar of grapes. 3. Grape sugar may also be prepared from wood sawings; it may also be prepared by taking 12 parts of linen rags, or paper cut into small pieces, mixing them intimately and gradually with 17 parts of concentrated sulphuric acid, or with 5 parts of sulphuric acid, and 1 part of water: the temperature must be kept moderate. After 24 hours the mass is to be dissolved in a quantity of water, and boiled for ten hours; it is then to be neutralized with chalk, filtered and evaporated to the consistence of syrup, and crystallized. Chemists have not yet been able to obtain sugar prepared by these artificial methods in regular crystals like cane sugar, although there is little doubt that these two species differ from each other merely in the quantity of water with which they are combined.

Action of Alcohol upon Alkalies.—Dumas and Stass have found that alcohol, when acted on by hydrate of potash and heat, is converted into pure hydrogen and pure acetic acid:—



Pyroxylic spirit, under the same circumstances, furnishes formic acid and pure hydrogen. Ethal by the same reaction is converted into a new acid—*ethalic acid* and pure hydrogen:—



From these facts it would appear that all kinds of alcohol are converted, by the influence of hydrate of alkalies, into an acid, which is produced by losing four volumes of hydrogen and gaining two volumes of oxygen, conformably to the theory of types and the law of substitutions.

Iodine in Coal.—M. Bussey has recently procured iodine in the form of hydriodate of ammonia, in different specimens of coal from Commeny (Allier).

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